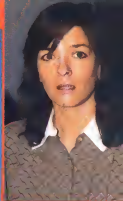


BAMBI'S STORY: MURDER, SEX AND THE LAW

# Maclean's

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 23, 1991 \$2.25



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## LETTERS

### A HEROIC DEBATE

I have been disgusted by Eric Lindros's spoiled-brat behavior for some time ("Lucky Lindros," Cover, Sept. 8). Your article did nothing to change my opinion: the pictures that emerged this time of an overpaid ego and grasping parents. How ironic that the same issue contained Trent Payne's column about Michael Smith and his just desserts to the death ("Cannibals and the sport of penguins," Sports Watch). I know which one of them would get my vote for Canadian sports hero, and I am disappointed that it was Lindros when you chose to feature a *don't cover story*.  
C.J. Bates,  
Wetzel, Ore.



Lindros 'an avenged ego'

Considering the fact that there have been so many rumors circulated about Eric Lindros and his family, it was interesting to read an article that seemed to be factual. I suspect and admire Lindros's ability and his courage to stand up for himself against the Quebec Nordiques and the National Hockey League. He should be able to choose his own destiny, just as the majority of Canadians are able to.

Pauline Green,  
Ottawa

### WANTED: SERIOUS JOURNALISM

One reason why young people are not interested in newspapers ("Wanted, new readers," Business, Sept. 16) is that the modern man is tired of being taken for a ride by writers who avoid anything that does not have to do, in some way, with themselves. I am 26, and what my friends and I want is serious journalism. We want to see reporters breaking stories, not just reacting to them. That approach has led to fads in the media today.

Rossie Robinson,  
Toronto

### LESSONS IN POLITICAL REALITY

Shortly after the last Ontario election, I attended a dinner party with the "average couple" ("Franchise power plays," Cover, Aug. 30). One of the best-dressed dinner guests started ranting against the Red Ford destroying the world as he knew it. I managed to resist asking him what he had done to prevent this election. During the election, my wife, her friends and I worked for two mainstream candidates, delivering flyers door to door. Many nights, there were too few people to blow a neighborhood. We worked hard in a losing cause, but where was the corporate scandal? I am a failed liberal. The next August, the New Budget are invading the political ropes now.

Oliver Landon,  
Mississauga, Ont.

necessary for progress in health care are too often forced to live in frustration or, like me, move to another country. Enforced assimilation is not only a gross violation of human rights, but it is also a gross violation of the quality of life. The same arrogant political philosophy applied to the health-care system will have the same result.

Dr. Malcolm G. Mesley,  
Associate Professor of Clinical  
Oncology & Geriatrics,  
University of California,  
Los Angeles

Dave Francis claims that the problem with Canada's health-care system is that it is overused. In fact, the term should be "misused." The present fee structure encourages doctors to increase the number of patients seen and discourages thorough diagnosis of the particular problem—hence the proliferation to treat the client not as quickly as possible with a prescription. France's preferred system of group practices encourages care on the basis of the number of patients seen would only exacerbate the problem.

For Merlight,  
Winipeg

Letter may be reprinted. Please include name, address and daytime telephone number. Write: Letters to the Editor, Mailbox 5, Toronto Star, 360 King Street West, Toronto, Ont. M5X 1C5. (416) 593-5111.

## PASSAGES

**CHARGED:** Former B.C. premier William Vander Zalm, 57, with benefit of trust for accepting a \$20,000 payment from the liquor of his home park, Portage Gardens, in August, 1990. Vander Zalm resigned in April following a report by B.C. cabinet-of-ministers commissioner Ted Hughes which found that the sale violated the province's conflict-of-interest guidelines. Hughes also revealed that Vander Zalm personally received the money in \$100 (\$5) bills from Thompson billionaire Tan Yu. Vander Zalm, who is scheduled to appear in provincial court in connection with the charge on Sept. 25, said that he is not guilty. "I have never benefited a cent," he said.



**CHARGED:** Heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson, 35, with raping an 18-year-old beauty-pageant contestant in an Indianapolis hotel room in July. Tyson denies the charge, but faces up to 63 years in prison if convicted on that and related charges. The former heavyweight champion is scheduled to fight current titleholder Evander Holyfield on Nov. 8 in a match that guarantees him \$15 million and Holyfield \$34 million.

**AWARDED:** To television evangelist Marvin Gorman, 58, \$15 million as a result of his slender suit against fellow evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, by a New Orleans jury. Gorman had claimed that Swaggart, 55, and his associates conspired to ruin his TV ministry by spreading rumors that he had several sexual affairs, including diplomatic children and was Satan.

**DIED:** Actor David Devine, 61, of complications arising from AIDS, at his home in Studio City, Calif. Devine was best known for his role as the 1978 actor Michael Douglas, for which he won the Golden Globe Award for best actor. He also appeared in Charade of Five and Quinella. His wife, casting director Susan Blumstein, said that Devine kept his illness a secret for so years for fear of losing roles.

**DIED:** Composer Alan Hovhaness, 90, of cancer, at his home in Los Angeles. His 50-year career in Hollywood began with the film score for Death of a Salesman in 1951. North subsequently composed music for such films as A Streetcar Named Desire, North, Cleopatra and From Here to Eternity. He received a special lifetime achievement Academy Award in 1996.

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WHERE NEWS COMES FIRST



# OPENING NOTES

Fergie sings the praises of Canary Wharf, Richard Monette directs an opera, and David Suzuki suffers a setback

## THE WRATH OF A FATHER

From an Ottawa-based biweekly magazine of political satire, *Insomniac* and gossip, frequently breaches the boundaries of good taste. But even one of its editors acknowledges that it recently went too far. The Sept. 8 issue included a full-page mock advertisement that invited young ladies to enter a local contest involving the Prince of Wales's daughter. Sources say that Brian Mulroney is more hurt and infuriated about the item aimed at his 17-year-old daughter—who lives at home with her family at 34 Sussex Drive while attending a local private school—than anything else that the media has done



Caroline, Mulroney's infuriated

during his seven years as prime minister. Mulroney and his wife, Rita, have declined to comment on the matter, but one source close to the Prime Minister told *Maclean's*: "They are disgusted by it." Christine Stern, a spokesman for Toronto-based Media Watch, a national organization that monitors images of women in the media, called the mock ad "despicable." John Stern, "The whole new of the of earlier the implications of a going reporter is it was only a good joke." Michael Stern, one of *Insomniac's* editors, conceded that the magazine had gone too far. Said Stern: "The thing is, when you are doing satire you walk a thin line because for satire to work well, it's between fantasy and reality. Sometimes, you stop over the line." The editor did not apologize, but he added: "The *Canadian Malware* thing has caused a storm. It was stupid."

## An unusual musical debut

The Canadian Opera Company got its most famous star who does not speak German, is unable to read music and knows nothing about opera. Richard Monette will direct the car performers of *Die Walküre* in the first of three operas. The 47-year-old actor-director, who has directed such acclaimed productions as *The Tempest* of the Globe, at the Globe Theatre, and *The School for Women* at the Stratford, Ont., Theatre Festival, says that at first he was daunted by the prospect of directing an opera. "I would say to people, 'Sometimes only write one opera, and I'm only going to direct one.'" But he adds that his fears have turned out to be much less than nothing. Said Monette: "The fun turned out to be one of the biggest experiences I've had in the theatre." For his part, CBC actor-director Philip Bovey says that the company

lured Monette because *Die Walküre* is a very theatrical opera and Monette is one of the best directors in the country. Said Bovey: "Getting Monette involved in opera is a wonderful coup." He added: "It's a great growth experience for him and the opera."



Monette from *Die Walküre* to *Die Walküre*

## SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

Last week, a member tourist strike crippled Toronto. But even if the shutdown continues, representatives of the Washington-based American Public Transit Association say that it will still hold its annual convention in the city on Sept. 28. APAT represents most of North America's major public transit authorities. Declared Charles Bishop, APAT's director of public affairs: "Toronto has one of the best transit systems in the world. That's why we're going there, as people from the United States can see how well it does things." If they can get downtown.

## A ROYAL FAMILY FEUD

In his 1989 book, *A Prince of Wales: A Personal Story of Aristocracy*, Charles, Prince of Wales, attacks modern architecture as a "cramping cancer." Among his targets is London's towering Canary Wharf development. But not all members of the Royal Family share Charles's contempt for modern glass shopping complexes. On a recent visit to New York City, Sarah, the Duchess of York, 31, visited the offices of Canary Wharf developer Olympia & York, where company chairman Albert Richardson unveiled a scale model of the 71-acre London business complex that is under construction. And apparently, the duchess liked what she saw. "It's just incredible," she said. "It's really leveled over by how huge it is and the variety of buildings. You can walk through parks, land, shopping, have a good dinner and go shopping while the



Richardson (left), Sarah enthusiastic

says work." But then, the duchess is accustomed to luxury. During their two-day New York visit, she and her three-year-old daughter, Princess Beatrice, stayed in a \$2,000-a-day penthouse suite at the posh 30th Plaza Hotel.

## Column cutting

Environmental crusader David Suzuki has suffered a setback. Citing a reorganization of the editorial staff, *The Vancouver Star* has dropped a weekly column written by the host of the CBC TV science program *The Nature of Things*. John Stumes, editor of the newspaper's Saturday section, says that there has been almost no reaction from readers to the cancellations. "He is a one-time, predictable columnist," added Stumes. "He was not offering us new insights." Indeed, in 1989, the *Toronto Globe* and *Mail* also dropped Suzuki's column. At the time, the *Globe's* science editor, Terry Charnack, said: "We worried that people would get so used to his screaming 'The world is ending, the world is ending' that they would just turn off." Suzuki was unavailable for comment, but Joe Foy, vicepresident of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, said that the B.C. logging industry hated Suzuki because of his criticism of clear-cut logging. Said Foy: "He got under the forest industry's skin, because he tells the truth. And he backs what he says with scientific fact." Foy also speculated that the logging lobby was pressuring newspaper and publishers to reject their accounts. But Stumes dismissed allegations that the newspaper was under pressure. He insisted: "A lot of people do not read him."



Suzuki's journalistic attack

## Better red than refugee

Somali and Somali has a challenging assignment. The internationally renowned of writing policy has been asked to persuade Vietnamese Boat People that life under the Communist regime that they find is preferable to their existence in Hong Kong's refugee camps. The European Community campaign is part of a \$12.5-million effort to encourage Boat People to return home. Said one skeptical British *Tele* star: "It will take more than Somali to persuade people who have fled Vietnam in seeking boats to return to the ludicrous Communist state."

## DELIVERING A BOTTLED MESSAGE

Japanese consumers of a popular brand of Canadian bottled water have it as good authority that they are getting the real thing. Robert Menden, an official at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, is quoted on the label of Canadian Glacier: "We invite you to enjoy a pure natural treasure from the snow-capped mountains of British Columbia." But Kathryn Alving, a spokesman for External Affairs, says that the quote is from a letter to the Japanese ambassador. The department used Western Canada Water to remove the quotation. And Margaret Bennett, a spokesman for the bureau, says that it has ordered new labels that exclude Menden's signature. Alving expressed relief: "It was never intended for product labels."

## A SATIRICAL APTITUDE TEST

Often, much is inadvertently said in an off-hand way. And he cited a recent *Washington Post* story which stated that "in one of 10 American states believe that the American is a son of a gun." But *Post* had said a test of aptitude for the Post story was, in large part, satirical. And its authors, Washington-based political analysts Larry McCarthy and Norman Ornstein, say that they deliberately used fact with become. Declared McCarthy: "We really wanted to see if he took the Post as his word. 'Honey,'

sorts, required for U.S. college admissions, at a 10-10-10 level. And he cited a recent *Washington Post* story which stated that "in one of 10 American states believe that the American is a son of a gun." But *Post* had said a test of aptitude for the Post story was, in large part, satirical. And its authors, Washington-based political analysts Larry McCarthy and Norman Ornstein, say that they deliberately used fact with become. Declared McCarthy: "We really wanted to see if he took the Post as his word. 'Honey,'



Ornstein: making fact and fiction





## FORESIDE AHEAD

Despite signs that his ministry remained closed on the government's growing proposals to amend the Constitution, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney ended two days of cabinet meetings in Stornoway, Ont., by saying that government had made "very good progress." Mulroney said that he still intends to make the proposals public this month.

## A SENATOR IS CHARGED

After a four-year investigation, the state charged Conservative Senator Michel Goggin of Montreal with accepting an illegal benefit. Goggin, best seen as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's 1975 wedding, was charged of the Times' 1988 election campaign. The senator is due to appear in court on Nov. 26 to answer the charge.

## A CROWNING ACHEIVEMENT

With only weeks to go before he must call on elected U.S. President George H.W. Bush to present, Gov. Denis, announced that a return for the province's guarantee of a \$250-million investment by a Saskatchewan company, Toronto-based Great Life Insurance Co. will cover its bond office—\$1,200 plus—its losses.

## TROUBLE AT THE BAG '97

Shaking ground beneath Montreal's troubled Olympic Stadium resulted in a 30-ton piece of concrete—about the size of a two-story house—falling off the side of the structure. No one was injured in the incident, but officials said that the stadium would be closed for at least five days, forcing the Montreal Expos to transfer four home games.

## VICTORY FOR THE OISE

Riding on a court action by southern Quebec's Oise, Federal Court Judge Paul Robson ruled that Ontario must remove Hydro-Quebec's \$1.8-billion project in the Great Lakes. While hydroelectric development project in southern Quebec under the terms of a 1975 agreement with the Oise. That agreement gives Ontario the authority to stop the project if it fails to pass an environmental review.

## WINNIPEG'S FINEST

Winnipeg's volunteer police force, already facing intense criticism for its treatment of inmates, attracted more criticism last week when two volunteers were charged with conducting a sting of break-ins. Manitoba Justice Minister James McCrory said that he was considering launching an independent review of the department.



Crystal and Bruce Dunahoe with daughter Caitlin: their hopes dashed countless times as new leads proved to be false

## CANADA

# 'WE ARE NUMBED'

Nearly every waking minute since March 24, Crystal and Bruce Dunahoe have endured every parent's nightmare. On that early-spring afternoon, their four-year-old son, Michael, disappeared from the Rimnall School playground in Victoria. The day was busy at the provincial capital. The family, including daughter Caitlin, then just six months old, went to the playground to watch Crystal Dunahoe play in a women's touch football league game. About 60 players, spouses, friends and family members gathered around the playing field behind the school to watch. Children crowded at the sidelines. Along the adjoining streets, people viewed their lives. Michael—blond, blue-eyed and handsome—wandered over to the nearby playground, down a slight hill from the football field. His family has not seen him since. Said Crystal Dunahoe, 28: "We are numbed. We just live day to day."

Since the boy disappeared, the Dunahoos

## THE DUNAHOOES ARE LIVING MANY PARENTS' NIGHTMARES SINCE THEIR SON WAS TAKEN IN MARCH

hopes have been raised countless times by apparent new leads, only to be dashed when they proved to be false. The initial panic, the fumes and frustration since first days of searching, the long nights of weeping, have subsided. During an interview in the small kitchen of their two-bedroom, co-op town-

house about two kilometers from the playground on the west side of Victoria, the Dunahoos sipped tea as Caitlin explored her world with tentative steps. The couple's kitchen table is laden with posters of their missing son, smiling happily in his dress shirt, bow tie and suspenders. The image has become familiar to millions of Canadians who have seen the posters displayed on billboards and in 7-Eleven stores, McDonald's restaurants, post offices, airport terminals and day care centers.

The Dunahoos' voices are subdued, their pale blue eyes—absorbed by both children—reflect light and shimmering sadness. Bruce Dunahoe's face brightens only when he talks about his son. "The idea fishing and gardening, watching me work on cars," the unemployed journeyman laborer, age 28, said. "I just got him into a lacrosse league two weeks before he disappeared. He has all kinds of interests. He's a great kid."

National records hold files on more than

61,000 missing children. But Michael was one of the first youngsters ever to be abducted in Victoria, a quiet, garden-like city on the southern tip of Vancouver Island best known as a tourist town and seat of the provincial government. The response to his disappearance from the coast-to-coast—and eventually the entire country—was swift and quite remarkable. Said Bruce Dunahoe: "The money just started coming in. We didn't ask for it. So far, about \$60,000 has been donated."

Within three days of Michael's disappearance, Bruce Dunahoe and seven friends set up a search centre at the Canadian Legion in Esquimalt, the community bordering Victoria's western limit, where both Dunahoos graduated from Esquimalt Senior High School. There, the centre will accept the community's Tourist Information Office, where space has become available because of the end of the summer vacation season. From early morning until late evening, seven days a week, up to 12 volunteers at the centre answer the phone, during police forces to help, making posters or handing them for Lower Coast Service—

which delivers them free. Almost all of the \$60,000 donated has been spent so far. The fund's share—including \$46,000 in post-age—has been used to produce and distribute the more than one million posters in circulation. Smaller amounts have been spent on food and gasoline for volunteers, and on phone bills.

The centre supplements a continuing official search—by Victoria's police and the RCMP—of Michael's disappearance. Since Victoria's police detectives, the RCMP and three FBI agents have been involved in the case. The Dunahoos have not released their own, detailed search for their son.

Explained Crystal Dunahoe: "You basically have to do it yourself, because no one else is going to do it for you. We could let the police do all the work, but you have to do something, you can't just wait. I believe a father should take it upon himself to search on his own. I'm about 10, and I try to get home for supper before going back for a few hours."

Some days the phone does not ring, on others they rarely stop. But there is a new lead nearly every week. A fragment of evidence or a supposed sighting. The Dunahoos were shocked when a child's blue jacket, similar to the one that Michael was wearing on the day that he disappeared, turned up at a restaurant in Kelso, about 440 km east of Vancouver, in late August. But he had not been seen, police forensic tests had still not determined whether the jacket was Michael's. Said Crystal Dunahoe: "There have been so many tips where the police think they have the lead and then they go up and it's still not back down again. So the police don't I'll be about half of them."

The couple's anguish is shared by thousands of parents across Canada. According to the national Missing Children Registry that the RCMP maintains in Ottawa, 61,214 children under 18 were reported missing during 1990. Only 84 were cases in which children were known to have been abducted by strangers. By contrast, 432 were abducted by an estranged parent and 44,863 were known runaways, while the status of most of the remainder was unknown. And the national figures reflect as well that for most families, the official wait for a discovery does not—usually apply to 1,000, 50,000 cases were removed from the registry list—including 74 of the 84 children abducted by strangers. Said Piyin Hilar, Saskatoon-based president of Child First Centre Inc., a national volunteer organization: "There is always hope." Indeed, of the two children listed in the past 12 months as a result of Child First's actively distributed posters, one had been missing for 12 years after being abducted at the age of three.

For them, the Dunahoos say that they have lost everything they can think of to find their son, whose fifth birthday was on May 22. Still, they remain haunted by the fear that they have made a mistake in some possibility. That has led them to accept even unconventional help. "We are talking to psychics," Crystal Dunahoe said, adding, "but we're not living by what they say."

They say that they take comfort from the fact that Michael's body has not been found, bolstering their belief that he may be alive. Said Bruce Dunahoe: "All the information we have on psychics is that they take them, and then just get rid of them. So if that was the case, they would have found something by now. Someone must have taken Michael to put him in a family somewhere. That's the only thing we can think of."

The Dunahoos say that uncertainty in the worst part of their lives has made the possibility of a sighting a relief. Bruce Dunahoe has taken a toll on their relationship. Earlier this summer, Crystal Dunahoe moved in with her parents for 10 days. Now, together again, the Dunahoos have regular meetings with a counselor who specializes in helping grieving parents. Bruce Dunahoe's mother is also using a stress counselor. Despite the strains, they remain dogmatically optimistic. Said Crystal Dunahoe, who returned to her job as a claims examiner for the Canadian Insurance Co. of Canada in Victoria on Aug. 19: "We just got the OK from the cops to move into a three-bedroom house. But we're going to wait until we hear from Michael back, so we can have the pleasure of picking out our own room."

And that happens, the Dunahoos will live in a nightmare.

RAE QUINN in Victoria



Michael Dunahoe 'great kid'

# Leader of the pack

*Keeping Chrétien out of sight pays off*

When the political spotlight shifts away from the House of Commons, opposition party leaders face a dilemma: how to get Canadians to notice them. Indeed, when the national media focused on the 1994 Liberal leadership campaign, then-opposition Tory Leader Brian Mulroney responded with what he called his "business" strategy, travelling to out-of-the-way regions to deliver his campaign message to redneck Mc Timex. His predecessor, Joe Clark, used the period before the 1979 federal election to travel abroad. Clark's attempt to demonstrate expertise in foreign affairs dissuaded casual voters of abandoned luggage, medical gaffes and a near

over its rivals selected somewhat over the summer.

But not all of Chrétien's followers give the credit for that to his leader. His domestic and international appearances attracted little attention. And some Liberals noted pointedly that the party seems to gain popularity when the leader is away. Still, Chrétien's absence seemed to be planned with the summer's French apogee. Said Edward Goldenberg, his principal secretary: "We kept things deliberately quiet. Some people hold the view that every time a politician shows his head these days, they get shot at."

With the next 18 months expected to be dominated by constitutional battles and a federal election, Goldenberg had urged Chrétien to rest and gather his strength. As a result, he spent long weeks of the summer at a rented cottage in his New Brunswick riding in south-eastern New Brunswick. He also spent vacation time at his summer home in St-Augustin. One of the areas in which he is expected to raise his ante this election.

In Europe, the Liberal leader attended an international meeting of Liberal groups in Luxembourg, Switzerland, then went on to Paris and London to meet with political leaders and Canadian businessmen. But Chrétien was rarely available for comment, and he declined to discuss his views on foreign affairs in any detail. After private meetings with Britain's Major and opposition Labour party leader

Nat Kenyon, Chrétien spoke only in vague terms about the need for Western nations to open their domestic markets to products from the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe. Declared Chrétien: "The Western world, now that we have applied our [and put some money] where our mouth is." Of Canadian markets, he said: "We have to open up. I don't know exactly what here."

At 20 per cent in a Gallup poll taken in August, the Liberals are far ahead of the Wild (25 per cent) and the Tories (13 per cent). But with the Canadians back in session, the quest of summer as truthfully giving way to the rest of new political year.

BRECK WALLACE in Ottawa  
with ANDREW PHILLIPS in London



Chrétien (left), Major: ahead in the polls

colleague with an inner guard's help. With Parliament's resumption this week, Liberal Leader Jean Chrétien is back in full view. But during the House of Commons' three-month summer break, he waged his own political battle with near invisibility. He responded by borrowing from the approaches of both Mulroney and Clark.

Chrétien attended party gatherings in eight provinces, going to the corn routes and backwoods which have become requisite summer political fare. Then, last week, he travelled to Europe for informal talks with French President François Mitterrand, British Prime Minister John Major and other leaders. The low-profile strategy plainly did no harm to Liberal popularity—indeed, the party's first-place lead

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## RAMBI'S STORY

It happened on May 28, 1961, just as spring was breaking into summer in the city of Milwaukee. In their back beds were Sess Schultz, 11, and his seven-year-old brother, Shoshon. In the bedroom next door, their 30-year-old mother, Christine, wearing a yellow T-shirt and beige pants, also slept soundly. But at about 2 a.m., an intruder awakened the two boys, putting one gloved hand over Sess's mouth and keeping a cold steel in his neck. The youngster struggled to break the smothering hold. Then, suddenly, the stranger set Sess free and ran to the other bedroom. There, the attacker pressed a 38-caliber revolver into Christine's right shoulder blade, pulled the trigger and fired a 200-grain, police-issue Speer bullet through the lower lobe of her right lung—and into her heart. The killer fled. Sess first retrieved a cloth in an attempt to stop his dead mother from bleeding, then phoned a family friend and cried pathetically. "Someone hurt Mommy and put a firecracker on her back."

The woman convicted of that monstrous crime on an 11-day trial in 1963 hardly projected a ruthless figure. At the time of the shooting, Levenstein Bernbenek was a blond, 33-year-old security guard who had been posed to a pin-up girl for the Schlitz Brewing Co., worked as a waitress in a Playboy Club and acquired the nickname *Bambi* during a brief career with the Milwaukee police department. Since the trial, while Bernbenek served a life sentence for the crime, she claimed tirelessly that she was the victim of a framing engineered by her own former fellow police officers. Thus, last summer, after three unsuccessful appeals of her conviction, she made a dramatic prison break, fleeing to Canada. Last October, authorities apprehended her in Thunder Bay. Since then, she has made her claim to innocence the basis for an expedition to remain in Canada in exchange—at the state's expense—for the 10th year appeal of the case has elevated her to the status of international celebrity. And last week, her saga took yet another dramatic turn: released on day 30, she was re-arrested the next and faced an extradition hearing that could return her to Wisconsin.

Rife for the past 11 months, Canadian immigration authorities kept Bernbenek, now 33, in detention pending the outcome of hearings into her refugee claim. But on Sept. 12, as immigration officials reviewed her detention at a Toronto processing facility ordered her release on \$10,000 bail. Personally, the official presiding over her case—immigration spokesperson Carmen DeCarle—just denied Bernbenek's bid

because, he said, her previous prison break indicated that she would likely attempt to elude authorities again. But last week, DeCarle, a member of the striking Public Service Alliance of Canada, was walking a tight line—and the review of Bernbenek's detention fell to another appellate.

But other officials in the immigration department clearly shared DeCarle's concerns. They delayed Bernbenek's release for nearly 24 hours while justice department lawyers hurriedly sought a Federal Court order to extend her detention—and Bernbenek's half-dozen lawyers put an acquiescent stamp to have her released. Finally, Bernbenek walked free—under a promise to appear for a refugee hearing next month.

Her taste of liberty was sweet, but short. Bernbenek spent her first night of comparative freedom in a downtown Toronto halfway house (but less an early-evening curfew). But even as she slept, Canadian officials were processing an application from the Wisconsin justice department for her immediate extradition. The next day, in a hastily arranged and extraordinary 30-hour hearing in Ontario, an ad hoc panel of judges sitting on Wisconsin's behalf unanimously sought a new warrant for Bernbenek's return—and she was taken into custody by the RCMP.

The sudden reversal prompted one senior immigration officer familiar with Bernbenek's case, who spoke on condition of anonymity, to suggest that senior Canadian officials zig have signed U.S. authorities to initiate Bernbenek's extradition last week in order to thwart her refugee application. Bernbenek has argued that she should not be returned to the United States, where she may face up to eight more years in jail, because she was wrongfully convicted—and her lawyers have submitted boxes of new evidence to bolster that claim. But the official noted that her refugee application, in effect, invited officials to rely on her mother's conviction—a matter that is beyond the expertise and authority of refugee panels. Even if Bernbenek had been wrongfully convicted by a Milwaukee jury, the official added, it would not constitute persecution by the U.S. government—and would not entitle her to refugee status. "That happens all the time in a democracy, and even in our own legal system," said the official. "Her claim should have been argued in the bail."

Still, Bernbenek's appeal for asylum may be her last hope for justice. According to testimony during her trial, Bernbenek, the daughter of a Polish-American carpenter, was drawn into an eerie world of hoodlums, drug dealers and illicit



police contact when she married Milwaukee police Det. Edward Schultz in January, 1961—two months after Christine Schultz had divorced him. The prosecution at Bernbenek's original trial was her conviction by arguing that she killed her husband's ex-wife because the 1960s monthly child-support and alimony payments that Edward was required to pay Christine hampered their lifestyle. But after four days of deliberation, a jury found Bernbenek guilty on the basis of evidence that pointing juror Michael Severance called "the most compelling . . . I've ever seen."

But for that, Bernbenek's supporters and lawyers have put forward evidence suggesting several other suspects in

the murder—including then, Edward Schultz. The furthest cry came from Bernbenek's lawyer, Michael Severance, who argued that Bernbenek was a prosecution witness in her 1962 trial. After his wife's conviction, Schultz tearfully swore his continued loyalty to her. But new evidence has cast doubt on his sincerity. According to his Milwaukee police department personnel record, which Bernbenek's attorneys obtained using a court order earlier this year, Schultz was the subject of an internal department investigation for perjury in a separate trial at the time of his resignation. His name alone, however, was given immunity from possible charges in exchange for testifying against Bernbenek.

Whether Bernbenek is guilty or innocent, she clearly was a source of trouble for the Milwaukee police department—which is embroiled in several other controversies, including one that amounts to failure to quickly respond to a badly handled weekend youth-killer Jeffrey Dahmer (page 26). After Bernbenek had been on the force for five months, the department fired her for allegedly lying in a police report. Bernbenek denies that charge. She counters that the department hired women and visible minorities—and then arbitrarily fired them—only to satisfy federal quotas and to take advantage of employment-quota grants. At a hearing into Bernbenek's refugee claim last month, former U.S. district attorney James Morrison, now a lawyer in private practice, testified that Bernbenek was his star witness in an investigation into the force's employment practices at the time of Christine Schultz's murder. Morrison added that he dropped his inquiry after Bernbenek's arrest. "The heart of the investigation had been cut out," he said.

Now, Bernbenek's most vexing legal battles are two fronts. In one arena, she is scheduled to pursue her refugee claim during seven days of hearings beginning on Oct. 15. A decision is not expected until next year. At the same time, she must fight the effects of U.S. authorities to extradite her as a separate series of hearings this month in Ontario Court. Ten years after five months after Christine Schultz's murder, Bambi Bernbenek's fight to go free may finally be decided by Canadian justice.

PAUL KAHILA



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# ABSENCE OF TRUST

## BEMBENEK TALKS ABOUT LIFE IN PRISON

Among Lawrence (Rene) Bembenek's friends and family, critics and supporters, few know her better than Wisconsin writer Rita Rudnik. Rudnik, a freelance writer, first met the convicted murderer in early 1989, while Bembenek was serving a life term in a Wisconsin prison. Since then, the two women have spoken frequently by telephone and corresponded regularly as Rudnik compiled her research for a book about Bembenek's life. The conversations continued last week, on the day that Canadian officials approved Bembenek's release from custody. The following day, however, Bembenek was returned to custody following a report from American authorities for her attraction to Rudnik's account.

**I**t is 8:45 a.m. in Toronto. Despite the date—Friday the 13th—it might just be the luckiest day of Lawrence Bembenek's year. Canadian immigration officials have told Bembenek's lawyers that she will be allowed to leave the detention centre where she has been held since last April and move to the more relaxed surroundings of a halfway house. But Lawrence—the nickname she prefers to the one often used by the media, "Rene"—is not thinking about luck. Instead, she is thinking about the dozens of times in the past year that she has been close to freedom—close to breathing air that has not been pumped through the dirty vents of a prison. "This is mental torture," she confides to a journalist she has come to regard as a friend. "If I get my hopes up, if I think I might actually get out of here, and if it doesn't happen, it might be just too much to deal with one more time."

**Fugitive:** Several hours later, Lawrence Bembenek was released—only, as she had feared, to return to custody within a day. But her few hours of freedom began with an embarrassing moment, as the detention-centre guards instructed her to pack her belongings and prepare to leave. Rising to her cell, Bembenek busily gathered her collection of notes, her few books and her precious letters into a small pile, then emptied the female guards' metal intrusion trays. When they came, they were unoccupied. "You have to change your clothes," a guard told her. "I don't have any clothes," Bembenek replied. "Can I wear this?" she asked, pointing to her white tennis shoes without laces, her standard prison-issue blue jeans and her once-white T-shirt. But one guard insisted. "Wear your dress," she said. "Don't you have a dress that you want to wear today?"

*Bembenek after her release: 'bizarre'*



Obviously, Bembenek returned to her cell and struggled into one of the two dresses she saves for court appearances—the only articles of clothing in the prison that she actually owned. One of them is a blue dress that she wore at her trial, in 1984, for the murder of her then husband's ex-wife, Christine Schultz.

The guards' casual remark reflected how Bembenek's life has unravelled since June 25, 1981—the day that Milwaukee police arrested her as the prime suspect in Schultz's murder. Apart from the three months in 1980 during which she was a fugitive, Bembenek's life since has been spent under someone else's control. She remembers little about the early months of her incarceration—except the confusion that at any moment she would awaken from what felt like a bad dream. "My problem is that I trusted everyone," she says now. "I trusted [Fred Schultz, her former husband] and I trusted my attorney. I just knew I would not be convicted of murder or sent to prison, because I did not kill Christine Schultz."

In March 1982, however, a Milwaukee jury did convict her, and a Wisconsin circuit court judge handed down a life sentence with no eligibility for parole until 1983. Bembenek was sent to the Taycheedah Correctional Institution at Fond du Lac, Wis. For months, she remained convinced that some terrible error would be discovered and her conviction nullified. But she was released, but no one would ever be released, hope faded. "After a while, you just can't get your hopes up," she recalls. "There would be one appeal and one motion for a new trial after another. And then at the very end, when I would be thinking, 'Maybe, just maybe,' everything would fall apart."

**Trial:** Finally, after the courts rejected yet another appeal for a new trial in early 1990, she managed to escape from prison that July with the help of Eugene Goghinas, a Milwaukee factory worker she had met the year before through his brother, a fellow prisoner. They crossed the border into Canada, and in Thunder Bay, Ont., they lived as apartment and, soon, work. Using the alias Jennifer Gonzalez, Laura Bembenek worked on babies in a Greek restaurant.

Her last taste of freedom in 1990 ended last October when Thunder Bay police, acting on a tip inspired by the popular CBS television crime show *American Mind* which arrested her. Soon after, Bembenek's Syrian application to remain in Canada as a refugee—a claim she has pressed for the past 11 months. Then, last week, Wisconsin authorities asked Canadian officials to extradite her. Despite the evidence that one of her own customers turned her in to authorities, Bembenek swears that she has no grudges against Canada. "Things are different so here," she says. "The justice does not condemn you guilty before you are even brought to trial. People here have not prejudged me. They have listened to my story and they have looked at the evidence and the facts."

That evidence has multiplied since her original trial—and her supporters say that much of

it now points away from Lawrence Bembenek. Dr. John Hildanus Smith, a top forensic pathologist with the Ontario ministry of the solicitor general, testified before the judge hearing that the alleged murder weapon, which was in Bembenek's possession, could not have resulted in the fatal wound. As well, a Milwaukee police report that was not introduced as evidence in Bembenek's trial shows that Eugene Kozubik, Christine Schultz's divorce lawyer, told the police after her murder that Bembenek's husband had entered their house against Schultz's wishes. Dr. Thomas Stenach, Milwaukee's assistant medical examiner at the time, said after Bembenek's conviction that she was "disturbed by certain irregularities" in the death investigation and trial.

Other new evidence has buttressed Bembenek's claims, which were discounted after



In a U.S. prison with boyfriend Goghinas: "I want to stay in Canada."

her conviction, that many of her fellow officers on the Milwaukee police force at the time of Christine Schultz's murder were breaking the law both on the job and off.

As well, Bembenek draws support from his brother, a blunt, fast-talking on-guard turned private investigator, who has pursued the new leads on Bembenek's behalf. He now says that there were two, if not three, unidentified people as Christine Schultz's home on the night that she was murdered. Kozubik adds that there are two other police suspects who had the opportunity and motive to kill Schultz—and that if either possible alternative suspect had been introduced at Bembenek's 1983 trial, the Milwaukee jury might well have concluded that there was sufficient doubt about the prosecution's case against her to find Bembenek not guilty.

Before her arrest on the weekend in Toronto, Bembenek said that she hoped that the release of American authorities to consider the new evidence would convince Canada officials to let her remain in the country. "I could never get a last trial in Wisconsin or anywhere in the United States," she said. "After the way I have been treated all these years, there is absolutely no reason for me to trust anything the authorities there tell me."

**Revelations:** Bembenek added that she does not understand why Canadian immigration officials had denied her so long for weekly applications for bail because of the possibility that she might cause a second loss for freedom as a fugitive. "Why would I want to leave a country that has given me more hope than anything or anybody in the past 10 years?" she asked. "I want to stay in Canada."

Before her release last week, Laura Bembenek was working on a holiday class—one of the few recreational activities in the crowded detention centre—when she was summoned to another weekly bail review. She expected the review to proceed as all the earlier ones had, her lawyer would ask for bail but would be denied. She would remain in prison, fighting back her dreams of playing tennis, sleeping in an unlocked room, doing anything at all without looking over her shoulder.

Then, quite unexpectedly, the immigration official presiding over the hearing recommended her release. "I sat there with team running down my face," she confided in a telephone conversation. Prophetically, Laura Bembenek allowed that her latest taste of liberty might still be withdrawn with as little warning as it was granted.

# A DOWNHILL ROAD

'SHE HAD A GREAT HOME, GREAT PARENTS'

**T**he nearly half-white house sits on a leafy street on Milwaukee's south side. Inside, the antiques are a mix of a largely colored interior of Jesus Christ emblems, a brass cross decorated in gold along carpet and flowered velvet couches. The decor reflects the blue-collar tastes and Catholic-Polish-American values of the residents: Joseph and Virginia Bembenek, the one a former Milwaukee police officer who left to become a carpenter, the other a nurse homeville. There, the couple raised their third daughter, Larissa, 34, as they had raised her two older sisters. To honor the flag, respect the law and down the modest dreams of Middle America, Bembenek's sister, Kelly, a former neighbor of the family. "She had a great home, great parents, a stable middle-class American family. Mom, Dad, dog and apple pie." It is a very long way indeed from the thick steel doors of the Metro Toronto West Detention Center where Larissa (Bembenek) Bembenek was confined last week while U.S. authorities tried to have her returned to Wisconsin to serve out a life sentence for a 1991 murder.

**Thriller.** The engine of how the wholesome girl sat, door from south Milwaukee became one of America's most celebrated legends has seized the imagination of a continent. On the one hand, Bembenek's story personifies all the ingredients of a tabloid thriller—qualities that have drawn reporters from half a dozen U.S. national media outlets to her Canadian hometown. But beneath the lurid outlines of Bembenek's alleged crime, her conviction, escape and recapture, the question of her real character—let alone her guilt or innocence—is more difficult to resolve. "I was a very, very cold person," recalls William Vogt, the former Milwaukee homicide detective

held few clues to her controversial future. While attending a neighborhood Catholic grade school, she studied music—learning to play accomplished violin in a sterling silver flute. Later, at Bay View High School, she developed a mother's lady grace as a member of the school track team. But the climate of the early 1970s also featured heavy guitars and the drug-fueled residue of the hippie decade. By the time she graduated from high school in 1975, the party became with the early, shoulder-length hair had experimented with marijuana, amphetamines and booze. Her school year-

many of brief jobs, including a stint as a fitness instructor. The athletic young woman also lifted weights, ran and played tennis. Friends remember her as a striking, blonde beauty with liberal feminist views who delighted in wearing anti-wrecking overalls with sex.

**Drugs.** In early 1980, Bembenek's post-high-school drift seemed to be coming to an end. In March of that year, she was accepted as a recruit with the Milwaukee police department and received the favor's swag. Two months later, she graduated, sixth in her class. But Bembenek's childhood respect for the



Bembenek (center) celebrating her birthday in Milwaukee: a tabloid thriller

book records that her graduating class was "smarter than ever." And Ellen D'Sha, a high-school friend who recalls swapping recipes and potlucks with Bembenek as a teenager, remembers her as "a little on the wild side—very outgoing and very outspoken." But, she adds, "It couldn't help but bite her."

Looking the innocent credits to person an interest in becoming a veterinarian, Bembenek took a two-year college course in biology, micro-organism and earned pocket money from a

police was seen put to the end. On the job, she spoke out against the moral piers with which veteran male officers harassed female rookies. Later, in sworn depositions to Wisconsin district attorney James Morrison, who at the time was conducting an investigation of the Milwaukee police, Bembenek recounted instances of her male fellow officers using pornography from their squad cars, accepting sex from prostitutes while working overnight shifts on patrol, and frequenting income drug hang-



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note. On Aug. 28, 1983, barely a month after accepting her badge, Bombenok was fired. She promptly filed a lawsuit claiming that the force had discriminated against her.

But Bombenok's confrontations with the Milwaukee police were not over. In October of 1984, a girlfriend gave her photographs of several Milwaukee officers dancing nude in public at an annual picnic sponsored by a city tavern. Bombenok passed the pictures on to the Milwaukee department's Internal Affairs Bureau. In the weeks that followed, several troubling incidents suggested to Bombenok that her actions against the bureau as well as her former colleagues had made her some lasting enemies. The first of her outbursts was slanted. A dead rat was left on the car's windshield.

Anonymous late-night telephone callers told her violently—that her sonby was dead. The incidents left the 22-year-old deeply shaken. "She was just beside herself," recalls Virginia Bombenok.

Confronted and with her police career at a halt, Bombenok found work as a waitress at Milwaukee at the Lake Geneva Playhouse Club—a decision that would later undercut her wholesome image and lead to heated battles that flared, with more violence than accuracy. "They're dirty mean bitches,"

Bombenok. Then, in December, 1986, a brutal confession took place. At a friend's home, Bombenok met a strapping, well-known veteran Milwaukee detective, Edward (Fred) Schultz, who was 14 years older than the impressionable, policewoman-turned-waitress. Among his fellow officers, Schultz had a reputation for hard-partying and vulgarity. "He was obnoxious and he'd keep about it," recalls one former Milwaukee police woman. But Bombenok saw none of Schultz's flaws. "Nothing anyone could say about Fred would change my mind about how I felt," Bombenok said. "I fell into his spell." On Jan. 30, 1987, the two married.

But there was more that Bombenok had yet to learn about her new husband. Just two months before marrying her, Schultz had been divorced by his previous wife, Christina, who had objected to his womanizing and had complained to friends about his violent temper. On May 3, 1987, Christina Schultz visited her lawyer to complain that her ex-husband was failing to



Parents Virginia and Joseph. "He believe in her innocence."

make support payments—and had told her in the course of an argument, "I'm going to blow your fucking head off."

Twenty-three days later, on May 24, 1987, someone shot Christina Schultz dead, fatally, in the back, at the house that she shared with her two children by Schultz. On June 28, Milwaukee police arrested Bombenok for the murder. On March 9, 1993, a Milwaukee court found her guilty of first-degree murder—and sentenced her to life imprisonment.

Did she do it? Edward Schultz, who resigned

from the Milwaukee police force seven months after the murder and now runs a prosperous construction business in Florida, is uncompromising in his view that his second wife killed his first. Saul Schuster, "She pulled the fucking trigger." Ex-homicide detective Vogt, who was on the scene to Markson's is the steady Free and Dinebar on Milwaukee's Water Street, also asserted her guilt. Bombenok, Vogt declared, has for countless years been a cold-blooded, deliberate murder.

Fable. A small legion of Bombenok's supporters dispute that conclusion with equal vigor. Most of those who have reviewed the evidence shared in two confidential issues at the basement of the Milwaukee district attorney's office claim instead that Bombenok was fraudulently framed. In her possession about the department, "Laurie was a rebel and a feminist who turned the rats to the police department," says Bombenok's former English professor, Murray-Schultz. Bombenok's most loyal supporters are her parents. "Her son is our son," Virginia Bombenok, age 66, said last week. "We have nurtured our outrage and spent all our life savings in attempts to reverse her conviction. We believe in her innocence."

Whether Canada's courts ultimately accept the verdict of the U.S. justice system that Bombenok is guilty or decide instead that there is sufficient doubt about the matter that she should be allowed to remain in the country, the life that she once dreamed of leading has now been tragically transformed. Since her arrest in 1987, she has spent all but about months of the past ten years behind bars. Writing last year from her prison cell in Wisconsin to a friend, she reflected: "A writer asked me last summer what I would do differently. I should have told her that that time I had had Smith & Wesson in my mouth nine years ago. Sometimes, I want it all so bad so bad I want to die."

Last week, Bombenok's lawyer told her new clients—both unexpected—in Canadian officials first authorized her release on bail, then re-arrested her in response to a U.S. request for her extradition. With her guilt—or innocence—still so clouded as that she joined Lawrence Bombenok's ordeal because ever more intense

With her then-husband at a wedding: confrontations



BILLY MACKENZIE in Milwaukee



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# INFAMOUS IN MILWAUKEE

## CITY POLICE CONFRONT A BREWING STORM

**B**rew made Milwaukee famous—at least according to the slogan popularized by the city's now-closed Schlitz Brewing Co. But the Wisconsin metropolis of 3.4 million people, 150 km north of Chicago on Lake Michigan's west coast, is equally proud of its reputation as an industrial and shopping center. Civic leaders are less proud of the city's deep racial divides—and its controversial 3,000-member police department, which failed to bring a 10-year rampage of murder, discrimination and civil disobedience to a timely end. Recently by local killer Jeffrey Dahmer, but the accusations of racism, homophobia and negligence that have been leveled at the Milwaukee police as that case has become the charge of action and corruption that some former and current union members—Lawrence Benbrook among them—have directed at the force. "Milwaukee is a sick town," said one outspoken critic of the city's police, black Reps. member Gene Chumley, after Dahmer's belated arrest, adding, "And it's been sick since the corpse for years."

Among Benbrook's supporters, there is wide agreement with that assessment. For her part, Dr. Elaine Samuels, the former associate medical examiner who did the autopsy on Benbrook's alleged victim, now says that the Milwaukee police "voluntarily looked up their wings and said Christine Scholtz's murder. And instead, the decade since Benbrook's conviction has produced a cascade of challenges to the evidence introduced at her trial."

**Case:** One contradiction surrounds the murder weapon. Prosecutors at Benbrook's trial introduced as evidence a revolver that, Samuels asserts, could not have caused Scholtz's fatal wound. The 30-caliber gun introduced as the murder weapon at the trial, with a sighting rod above the barrel and a cartridge extractor rod below, should have produced matching



Dahmer (center) charged of racism, homophobia and negligence

marks on Scholtz's body—not the circular bruising that Samuels actually found. Said the former medical examiner: "The gun produced no evidence could not have produced the imprint on the body." Other doubts focus on samples of blood and red hair, which prosecutors at Benbrook's trial claimed were found on Scholtz's body. According to the prosecutors, the hairs matched Benbrook's own blood hair and the red wig that they alleged she had worn to commit the murder. In fact, Samuels says, "All of the hairs that I recovered from Christine Scholtz's body were brown and were grossly identical to the hair of the victim."

For at least one other Milwaukee policeman, the litany of complaints against the force that have surfaced in the Benbrook case

ring true. The policeman, now a sergeant, graduated from the Milwaukee Police Academy in 1979 and served briefly with Benbrook the following year, when their similar physiques and blond hair caused them to be frequently mistaken for each other. She now expresses little respect for her former superior. According to that officer, rule-infraction regularly cataloged as sexual harassment of female colleagues. When she complained about their harassment, she says, other officers followed her during her off-hours; her car tires were slashed; her supervisors denigrated her for statements that she claimed she had not made. "They made my life miserable," she told Milwaukee's last week, tears welling in her eyes. "It was bad, bad stuff. They drove me crazy."

In 1986, the officer said the department for discrimination, and last April was an \$53,000 settlement. **Fuel:** The latest Milwaukee police controversy is by far the most horrifying. Critics say that the force was grossly negligent in not acting sooner on neighbors' complaints about foul smells emanating from Dahmer's apartment. In one instance,

three officers who encountered a wounded Asian boy wandering naked near Dahmer's apartment ignored his plight and actually returned him to Dahmer's custody. Dahmer has confessed to later killing the youth. Two of the officers involved in that incident have since been fired, but are appealing their dismissal, the third was placed on a year's probation. And in the wake of the Dahmer offer, critics have urged that a grand jury examine the city's police department. "This has affected us all," says Chumley, "and the whole world can see the dirt." Per Lawrence Benbrook, however, any housecleaning in the months ahead will be too late.

HEARTY MACKENZIE in Milwaukee



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# MULRONEY VS. THE UNIONS

There must be a national consensus to resolving labor relations in Canada. The adversarial system of labor relations ultimately produces just that—adversity. It is rooted in a lack of proper two-way communication and results, inevitably, in mutual ignorance, hostility and mistrust.

—Brian Mulroney, in his 1983 book, *Where I Stand*

At the outset, they appeared as unlikely adversaries in an equally unlikely political war. Since its inception in 1969, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), representing the majority of federal civil servants, has been a self-described pacifist within the country's labor movement; slow to wage, eager to compromise and loath to fight. Against them, Gilles Loiseleur, president of the federal Treasury Board, as a former diplomat whose hard line against PSAC on behalf of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government was made all the more conspicuous by his self-quitting manner and glowing media figure. But there was nothing mild-mannered that week about the confrontation that shut down large sectors of government and resulted in chaos in many parts of the country. And when Loiseleur finally acted at week's end to force a conclusion to the strike, he announced some of the toughest measures ever taken by a Canadian government to end a labor dispute.

As the first national public-service strike in Canadian history unfolded, both sides had agendas that extended far beyond the Conservative government's unadvised, unworkable decision to freeze PSAC wages for five years. For PSAC, and president David Bevin, the issues also included the future shape of the public service, the security of the jobs of the union's members and the integrity of the bargaining process. Behind the public deliberations of Loiseleur, who said that the pay freeze was necessary to help reduce the federal deficit, Mulroney's Tories seemed determined to demonstrate their commitment to cutting the cost of government in

## AS CANADIANS SUFFER, THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATES ENDING A NATIONAL STRIKE

the face of public fury over rising taxes. Both sides appeared confident that, in each other, they had found an opponent more sympathetic with the public than themselves.

In the past, the Tories have battled the deficit by eliminating some government operations—completely, including military bases, local car stations and much of Via Rail. But that approach proved politically expensive. By freezing wages, the Tories aimed to avoid public anger by focusing attention on the perquisites of civil servants, including protections against layoffs—a treaty in the recession-ridden Canadian economy. The issue of public-service job security was all the more notable in a week when Canada's two national strikes, Air Canada and Canadian Airlines, fired more than 2,000 workers.

**Chaos.** But the walkout was a national irritant, particularly because it followed 13 days of rotating strikes by postal workers. And at the nation's largest city, the traffic chaos created by a walkout of Toronto's transit workers amplified the inconvenience on the fourth day of the PSAC strike. Meanwhile, PSAC members managed to almost completely close Toronto's Pearson airport for two days as strikers insisted on entering employees who tried to cross picket lines. And some companies, ranging from small mom-and-pop enterprises to huge

Canadian accounting firms, were paralyzed by PSAC-related shutdowns and slowdowns in customs and shipping.

Still, many Canadians seemed to oppose the wage freeze. And the union leadership cheerfully worked to shift the focus of their confrontation from the unassuming Loiseleur to the deeply unpopular Mulroney. One small measure of success was found on Ottawa's Wellington Street, across from the House of Commons, where the sound of car horns became a cacophony when strikers raised placards that read "Hark if you hate Mulroney." By contrast, earlier placards calling on parliament to "Hark if

you support PSAC" were almost nonexistent. The union's communications strategy also compared Mulroney's prime-ministerial lifestyle with PSAC's assertion that 60 per cent of its members earn salaries of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 annually.

From the start, legislation to end the strike was a clear possibility. But when it came Loiseleur's ultimatum to the strikers was startling for its uncompromising tone. The legislation, to be tabled when the House of Commons resumes sitting this week, will extend PSAC's

striking contract—and those of other public-sector unions—for two years, effectively withdrawing the right of most public servants to collective bargaining until after the next federal election, expected in early 1993.

Still, a forced end to the strike would leave each side with lingering problems. For PSAC members, there is the inevitable animosity between those who want no strike and those who do not, worry among strikers over lost salaries and animosity towards a government that they blame for provoking that predicament.

For the Tories, with their twin doctrines of efficiency and competitiveness, there is the likelihood that PSAC's angry, frustrated employees will feel little inclination to serve them with efficiency or even, for that matter, competence. And for millions of Canadians, whose businesses and routines were upset by the tactics employed by both sides, there was the disturbing sense in the strikebound late summer of 1991 that the vast apparatus of public service had become just a hindrance, not a help, in their daily lives.

ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH in Ottawa



Striking public servants demonstrate in Ottawa. Hark if you hate Mulroney!

# SAYING 'NO' TO ZERO

## CIVIL SERVANTS SHOW A TOUGH NEW FACE

In her eight years as a federal public servant, Beth Lesche never went to a single meeting of the Public Service Alliance of Canada. But last week, as the 165,000-member union alliance unleashed its first-ever national general strike, the 33-year-old defense department supervising clerk willingly defected a PSC picket line, holding a placard that read, "You can't break us, Boss." Still Lesche: "I just thought it was time to take a stand." Lesche, who is single, and that she is affiliated with her \$31,000-a-year salary. But other working conditions leave her increasingly angry. For one thing, she said, by the end of the year the number of staff at her office will be reduced by six people to 28—while the work load will remain the same. Then, she added, makes her line that the Conservative government is "trying to phase out half the public service by the year 2006." And even as the government proposed to introduce back-to-work legislation when Parliament resumed after this week, with the threat of heavy fines for violators, Lesche remained defiant. "I don't feel like backing off," she said.

**Backstage:** That resolve was typical of the spirit that galvanized the traditionally tame Public Service Alliance last week. The strike by the country's largest single labor organization fended marches that few observers believed the 25-year-old union had. The wildest quickly affected a wide range of government services, closing courts and borders, closing newspapers and jamming border crossings. Ships carrying Canadian grain bound for China were halted. Caravans at an Agropur, B.C. grove, comprised of virus-related biological noted. Industrial production sagged, as in-

ported manufacturing components were delayed at border customs ports.

The impact of the strike caught many Canadians off guard. Others were simply outraged. Business associations, their members rattled by the effects of recession, demanded that Ottawa act promptly to bring disruptions to an end. Scott Carleton Smith, chief economist of the Toronto-based, 68,000-member Canadian Federation of Independent Business, "This strike has had definite and profound consequences. The damage is real and some of it is permanent." The Canadian Manufacturers' Association also pleaded with the government to legislate an end to the strike.

The government's response was hard-nosed. As the strike entered the end of its fifth day, Treasury Board President Gilles Lesche announced that he would ask Parliament this week to enter striking workers back to their jobs—without financial concessions and with no opportunity to reopen their contract for the next two years. Still Lesche: "We cannot accept that the economy or certain businesses be endangered." But in a climate already deeply poisoned by mutual distrust, it was far from certain that even the full weight of Parliament would succeed in forcing a quick end to the strike—let alone restore efficiency and vitality to the country's troubled public service. Earlier in the week, PSC president Doni Rose said that he was prepared to go to jail rather than drop a back-to-work order. Referring Lesche's announcement, he remained defiant, declaring: "They may be able to legislate us back to work, but they can't sell out our legislative law work."

Indeed, Lesche's back-to-work legislation

were by no means marked of swift passage. Labor's

opposition argued the government to include the dispute to mediation. For their part, New Democratic Party leaders said that they would stall any attempt to legislate an end to the walkout—which would deprive the Tories of the maximum number required to ensure speedy legislative passage. Indeed, Conservative officials said that it could take as long as 315 weeks for Parliament to act.

**Cynical:** However long the strike lasted, its effects appeared certain to be felt long after the picket lines went down. For one thing, last week's extraordinary charged without apparent to have emboldened many union members. According to union spokesmen, about 70 per cent of PSC's members who were eligible to strike (45,000 union members in such essential jobs as airport fire departments) are prohibited from stilling walked out—compared with 60 per cent who voted for the job action. Said Donald Schultz, PSC regional representative for Vancouver: "We have been a little naive for many years, but we have been pushed into a corner." At the same



A striker demonstrates in Ottawa: public servants fear a Tory plan to slash their numbers and shrink their incomes

time, despite polls that showed wide support for the government's goal of wage restraint, it was unclear that the Conservatives' handling of the walkout had won over the public. Still, for now, was critical of what she called the Tory government's "typical" strategy to undermine support for the even more fiscally conservative Reform party. At the same time, striking civil servants strove to link PSC's cause with public anger against the Prime Minister, waving placards that read, "Think of you kids Midway."

With its frequently strong-arm tactics on the picket line, however, the union attracted its own share of criticism. In Vancouver, many PSC members paraded sleepwalkers who tried to enter that city's downtown Stanley Centre. Said bookshop owner Lucy Stewart: "These were grooves, legit sleepwalking as I tried to enter. How can they do this to us?" In Ottawa, an orthodox carpenter on his way to perform an operation suffered a concussion after picketers, apparently mistaking him for a strike-

breaker, knocked him from his bicycle. Travelers and transport workers in many cities across the country faced over 100-hour delays and flight cancellations arising from the strike. Declared Summerfield, P.E.I. bag manufacturer Paul Senelick: "It is discouraging to see how these citizens are treating people. I have a lot of trouble finding sympathy for them."

**Legality:** Other critics attacked the public-service union for placing its members' interests ahead of those of the country. For his part, Howard Bonadita, sales manager of a Fort McMurray, Alta., forest-products firm, declared: "The union is doing its best to slow down the economy of the country even more." What appalled the union did attract focus on the government's refusal to offer PSC's members any increase in salary in the first year of a new contract. At a time when the national inflation rate is running at 5.8 per cent, the freeze appeared to many Canadians to be, at the least, insensitive. One observer who shared

that view was Ontario's vice-premier, Bob Rae, who commented in an interview with Maclean's last week that "legislating order and expecting cooperation is a little strange."

But more than money was at issue. PSC's striking members also complained about Ottawa's increasing recourse to part-time and contract workers to supplement—and, in some cases, replace—unionized labor. Claiming that 13,000 positions have been displaced within the public service since the Mulroney government took office—and that 3,000 of them have lost their jobs permanently—the union demanded that any new contract guarantee that as members would not suffer layoffs or reduced work hours as a result of contracting-out, and that any reduction in the public service be achieved through attrition.

For his part, Lesche said that federal public servants already enjoy "about the best job security available." Government officials also argued that its monetary stand was in line with

## THE POSTIES' SIMMERING FURY

The Posties, as best, single. In fact, the Sept. 5 agreement under which the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) ended 13 days of rotating strikes showed signs of spilling over. After government-appointed mediator Alan Gold began his efforts last week to bring a truce between Canada Post Corp. and the union in Dartmouth, N.S., some letter carriers stepped off the job over a local grievance. Their concern: Canada Post's elimination of 30 of Dartmouth's 36 postal

routes, and the replacement of 30 full-time letter carriers with part-time workers. Canada Post spokesmen said that the full-time letter carriers would receive job elsewhere in the area. But CUPW president Jean-Claude Paré accused the Crown corporation of attempting to undermine the mediation process. Said Paré: "This is clearly a provocation when letter carriers return to work only to find out their jobs have been eliminated."

Spokesman for Canada Post, which noted that over 90 per cent of the Dartmouth strike was, pointed that the two governments were simply standard procedure—and that CUPW had been notified of the impending changes in June. "So as [the strike] is totally avoidable," said Marilyn Parry, representing Canada

Post's Atlantic division. Instead that limited backdrop of termination, Gold met separately with representatives of both sides in Ottawa. His mission is to lead the post office and CUPW to the settlement that has eluded them since the last union act expired in 1993. But with the two sides still far apart on the main issues of wages and Canada Post's increasing use of part-time labor, Paré last week threatened to lead his union onto the picket lines again. Gold, who reportedly mediated the 1993 postal strike, will now clearly need to draw on all his experience.

PREETER ROYVILLEN with JAMIE LEWIS in Halifax

The overall target of reducing the \$30.5-billion federal deficit. They pointed out that several provinces—among them Newfoundland and New Brunswick—as well as some private employers, have also announced wage freezes. As for the job losses that PSC's members fear, officials claimed that all but 1,200 of the 13,000 federal workers displaced in cuts would

into-sector settlements averaging 5.1 per cent. Despite that apparent gap, other surveys indicate that public servants' aims were similar to those earned by private-sector workers with comparable skills and education. According to one recent study by the Metropolitan Toronto Board of Trade, for instance, the average mid-career clerk working for business

with the consumer price index—a luxury that only a few of the most powerful private-sector unions have won for their members.

Francis Bell, many of the striking government workers must find such comparisons insulting their deteriorating standard of living. Louis Maricani, a 32-year-old clerk in the Health and Welfare office at Montreal's Guy Frenais complex, for one, supports his wife and 11-month-old daughter on a salary of \$32,300. A percent-per-time public worker for the past five years, Maricani complained: "I still can't manage to put in enough hours to make a decent salary." He added: "Around 60 per cent of us work under the same scheme. It's hard to make ends meet." For his part, Anita Sawall, a 30-year-old Calgary Public Works draftsman and single mother of three, noted that while her \$30,000 salary is higher than that of many PSC members, because of inflation, "any way you look at it, I am going backwards."

Those sentiments, widely shared among PSC's members, are certain to leave a number of politicians wondering the outcome of LaSalle's declared intention to order the strikers back to work this week. And seeing civil servants themselves, relations between those who walked out and the roughly 30 per cent of PSC members who continued to work will also be strained for some time to come. In Robin Lecker's Ottawa office, only one of her colleagues crossed march's picket line. According to Lecker, "She said she would lose her home if she didn't go to work." But the militant defence department clerk offered no sympathy. "When we'd come back," said Lecker, "she'd be isolated." Clearly, such sentiments did not bode well either for future peace in the civil service or for a much-increased public which, in the end, pays the bills.

GLENN ALLEN is Ottawa and metropolitan reporter.



Striking workers toe-to-toe with riot police in Montreal national disruption

1985 have found other jobs in the civil service.

In fact, comparisons between the wages and benefits earned by public servants and those available in the private sector reveal a tragedy. In a recent wage survey, Labor Canada reported in July that public-sector wage settlements in the last five months of 1984 had averaged three per cent—compared with pri-

in the Ontario capital alone \$30,700 annually, \$700 more than a PSC member would earn for the same position. But the same survey found that corporate executives in Toronto men an average of \$31,300—\$680 less than march's moving contract awards under employees in government. In addition, PSC members enjoy inflation-proof pensions that rise automatically

## GRIDLOCK IN TORONTO

Bumper to bumper, horns blaring and tires screeching, Torontoans found their way to work last Thursday morning as a strike by the Toronto Transit Commission's 8,000-member employees paralyzed Canada's largest city. Many frustrated commuters walked long distances to work, often hospital better than the motorists trapped in gridlocks at downtown intersections. Cyclists, skateboarders and roller blades went with pedestrians and cars for limited space on downtown streets and sidewalks. Patrol workers sat back as the jobs from their 13 days of rotating without paid the pleasures of lock-down as they tried to get to delivery center they actually worked by bus, streetcar or subway. And striking civil servants picketing outside federal buildings around the city encountered

actively silent response from city street weary drivers making just their "Black if you support our cause" sign.

North America's second-largest transit system, after New York City, shut down when members of the Amalgamated Transit Union rejected the union's recommendation of their own 14-member executive and turned down their employer's most recent offer. The rejection was not money—the TTC had offered the union an increase of almost 10 per cent over two years. Instead, the union and its walked out over what they perceived to be a threat to their job security: a clause in the proposed contract that would allow the TTC to hire retirement workers during the summer to fill in on full shifts for vacationing union members. Union president Roy Hutchinson, long re-elected in December and claiming that "retirement" was the union had signed the agreement, asserted that the clause had no risk for his members. But on the picket lines, Hutchinson drew jeers.

By Friday, the second day of the strike,

many motorists started fine commode number, and the on-ramp was just quiet as severe, although normal 20-minute drives turned into hour-long ordeals as unions. Right from the start, the city's political center, Metropolitan Toronto Chairman Alan Tonks, was pressing Ontario Premier Bob Rae to legislate an end to the disrupted Transit. "This is absolute lunacy. The province has to get involved very, very quickly." A provincial mediator swiftly brought the two sides back together for discussions, and Rae's cabinet met twice on Thursday to discuss the most shut-down. Asserting that "We are determined to protect the public interest," he said that it was too early to contemplate legislation. But he did not rule out the possibility, if renewed negotiations failed to produce a settlement, of the province's first blue-backed New Democrat government ordering the union back to work this week. By many reasonable estimates, that was a welcome prospect.

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# A STRIKER'S DEFIANCE

**'THERE IS NO WAY IN HELL THAT I WOULD GO BACK IN'**

After her fifth five-hour shift on the Public Service Alliance of Canada picket line in front of the Government of Canada Centre House building in downtown Vancouver, Jean Allan burned home to phone her husband, who wanted to discuss the possibility of delaying her \$360 monthly car payment on the 1987 Nissan Sentra that she acquired a year ago. Tired, earning a bruised back and elbow from being knocked down one day and pushed up against a wall the next in a confrontation with police-line readers, the president of the 30-member PSC Union of Solicitor General Employees Local 20084 had been too busy during the first week of the automobile strike to attend to all the details of her domestic affairs. But after 27 years in a single parent—for daughter, Melissa, in now 19—the 40-year-old Allan is accustomed to juggling her books. The salary from her job as a parole officer clerk for Corrections Canada in Vancouver—\$35,000 a year, \$3500 income-tax a week—has been less than adequate. Still, Allan "you learn to rework your budget very well. I know it's very important, but I can't afford house insurance. I have all year to pay my car insurance. You learn to do without."

Allan says that she could not report in the private sector or in other work. "My brother-in-law, maybe my father should have taught me how to hold tools," she jokes—but she has not her sights on a career with Corrections Canada. Jean joined the service in 1965, after spending seven years as an accommodations coordinator for the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Allan has studied criminology part time at Simon Fraser University, taking one course a year in its first three years of the five-year course. "I'm learning something, little by little, at the criminology degree that I need to reach my goal of becoming a parole officer," Allan explained. "I want to join in Corrections." But like tens of thousands of PSC members, Allan defies headlines by the picket line when the strike began early last week. "There has been building for a long time, and there is more at stake than just wages," she said in an interview. "We have been dealing with downsizing, with contracting out." Chas-



Allan: 'There is more at stake than just wages'

ing that a cabinet minister's tax-free allowance amounted to more than her annual salary, she added: "You know something is seriously wrong."

Allan says that she is not overworked that the strike will solve her problems, or those of her fellow workers. But she added: "We do not know how far to get the point across. We are on the inside. We see how the money is spent, how it is wasted. The public knows, but the spending priorities of the government are out of line." And last week, earning \$125 a strike day, the five-foot, one-inch native of Dauphin, Man., had to rethink her own spending priorities. Still, Allan: "If the strike goes on

much longer, I might just have to do without a car."

Allan is helped with the \$360 a month in rent for a three-bedroom house in Burnaby, just west of Vancouver, by the \$425 she receives from a boarder. Still, that leaves just \$673 a month for food, clothing, telephone, heat, water and other expenditures, such as automobile payments and insurance—not to mention replacing her car's worn-out brakes. Daughter, Melissa—who entered Vancouver's Langara Community College this month in a recreation leadership course—also contributes. Melissa has helped out since she was 13 years old, first with a paper route, then with her after-school job at McDonald's. Still, Allan, her gross pay—drawn by a cascade of early red hours—flashing with pride: "Melissa has worked to help pay for her clothing and for her own spending money for the past seven years. And now that she's in college, she's working part time at a gift shop in a Vancouver hotel."

Like Allan says that in those years, when her daughter, graduates, she may be able to take some time off to study full time herself. Until then, she will work to keep both their dreams alive. Last week's events have not a shadow on that future, she said, Allan: "We have to pull together or we won't accomplish anything. But who knows if it will be resolved by this government working out?"

At week's end, as Treasury Board President Gilles Lacombe announced that he will table back to work legislation in Parliament this week, Allan and the entire PSC membership braced for what may well be an escalation of the confrontation. "It will be the last," Allan acknowledged. But, noting PSC president Daryl Bean's threat last week to defy such a law, Allan said that she will support the union leader. "If he goes to jail, I'll definitely stay out," she said. "There's no way in hell that I'd go back in. A lot of others feel that way, too." Saying that the war "born in Manitoba, reared in Saskatchewan, worked 35 years in Alberta, and now that I'm out here, I can't go much further west," Allan has chosen her place to make a stand.

HAL QUINN in Vancouver



Bean walks a Halifax picket line, forgoing an \$80,000 salary for strike pay

## 'JUST ONE OF THE BOYS'

**DARYL BEAN DEFENDS THE STRIKERS**

Union leader Daryl Bean says that the pattern of his life was set in childhood. As the youngest of 10 children growing up on his father's Ottawa Valley farm, Bean recalls spending the defense of poorer children against wealthier neighborhood bullies—sometimes with his fists. Decades later: "Just because one was better off than another didn't stop all of these of the less fortunate." Now, Bean, 46, a president of the 150,000-member Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSC), which embarked on its first countryside strike last week. And in his view, he is once again confronting a bully on behalf of the downcast—the class, a federal government that he considers both untrustworthy and overbearing. And if the \$80,000-a-year union leader no longer courts political danger, he says that he has recently made plans to defy any attempt to legislate PSC back to work (page 34). U.S. black leader Martin Luther King Jr. says: "You can violate laws as long as you do it openly, willingly and lovingly—and you're prepared to pay the price."

Among labor observers and colleagues,

Bean's military comes as no surprise. Says Michael Leggett, president of the Customs Rime Union, one of the 18 public-service unions that make up PSC: "He's tougher than oak." According to Donald Stewart, an expert on labor-government relations at Ottawa's Carleton University, Bean is one of a crop of activists who transformed PSC after its last major walkout, when 47,000 federal clerks fled off the job in a chaotic, one-sided and largely ineffective—strike in 1986. Although Stewart calls Bean "the best leader the union has ever had," he adds that the PSC president has shown a tendency to focus on money rather than the less tangible issues of bargaining rights and job security that are central to union members' complaints. And, Stewart adds: "He can be a bit bullheaded."

Still, Bean, who is forgoing his \$13,538-a-week salary for strike pay of \$25 a day for the duration of the walkout, does not quite fit the stereotype of a tough talking union boss—a sort of the rebel scores he has launched at the conservative government. In his sparsely office on the 11th floor of PSC's Ottawa head-

quarters, two teddy bears, gifts from friends and admirers, adorn his office. Bean's occasionally unimpressed delivery is colored by the twang that characterizes the speech of many Ottawa Valley natives. And colleagues, who describe him as courteous, unassuming and shy, say that he is uncomfortable in the glare of publicity. They say that outside his laid-back lifestyle, Bean is "just one of the boys" who plays third base as a minor league baseball team, Delta Legends. "It's a pretty good job player," he says.

Anger: The father of two grown daughters, Bean lives with his wife, Rita, in the Ottawa suburb of Orleans. He turned to union activity early in life. After dropping out of his first year in high school in 1958, at the age of 17, he helped his aging father run the family farm. Bean went to work for the federal government as a helicopter farmer in 1963. The second day on the job, Bean says that he was approached about joining the staff movement. "I joined that day and I've been there ever since," he recalls. Two years later, he became shop steward—as well as being certified a stationary engineer. In 1966, Bean's staff association became the Union of Public Works Employees and joined with other unions to create PSC.

Then, in 1975, Bean was elected to the national president of the Union of Public Works Employees. A decade later, he was elected to his present office, winning a second three-year term in 1988. After a period of isolation, he sought and won a third term last April. His reason for running was simple: "The anger and frustration and the lack of morale was building. I felt it would be the wrong time to leave."

Indeed, Bean says that he knew last Feb. 26 that there would be a strike. That day, then-Finance Minister Michael Muir released a budget deficit for a three-year period, including public-service salaries. Bean says that his certainty was reinforced when the government later announced that wages would be frozen in the first year of a new contract. Complaining that the union was now Treasury Board President Gilles Lacombe, Bean says that Lacombe's predecessor, Robert de Cotigny, had shown signs of bending at the union's knee. He contends, Lacombe seemed to be less sympathetic towards PSC. "I knew I was in trouble the first day I met him."

Bean's distrust of Lacombe, however, clearly plays beside his animosity towards Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Says Bean: "The union has not been traditionally a leftist union. I can honestly credit Brian Mulroney's government for making it so." And Bean is struggling in the defense of such rough-and-ready strike tactics as publicizing the names of those who cross picket lines. "See, we're making a tough strike," he says, "and we want to do it." But, he adds, "We are dealing with people who have never seen us as a union and who know that a strike is not a black or a white difference, that's a grey." The man who portrays himself as a scowling of bullies in his posture is subtly now to retreat in the heat of battle.

GLEN ALLEN in Ottawa

# THE QUIET MAN AT THE FRONT

GILLES LOISELLE TAKES A HARD LINE

He is the father of two grown children, a wine connoisseur and a former foreign emissary for the Quebec government. Now, at 62, Treasury Board President Gilles Loiseleur has become the federal Conservatives' point man in the government's battle with its striking public servants. Over the course of the strike—and in the months leading up to the vote—the political gymnast of the 215,000-member civil service has repeatedly served notice that Ottawa is not prepared to compromise. And last week, Loiseleur insisted that the government is not budging from its bottom line: striking government workers will get no wage increase in the current year, and three per cent in each of the subsequent two years. Declared Loiseleur as he announced that back-to-work legislation would be introduced this week: "Zero, three and three is there—and it is there to stay."

Confrontation at Loiseleur's announcement came quickly: top MP Nelson Rice and Liberal air John Manley said that a back-to-work order would cause serious long-term problems in the public sector. Declared Rice: "It will go down as a very, very dark day for the country." But the fiercely intelligent, Jewish-educated Loiseleur is familiar with confrontation. A former priest and broadcast reporter, Loiseleur entered the Quebec civil service in 1967, holding a variety of posts in a career that spanned 21 years. In the early 1980s, while serving as the Parti Québécois government's agent-general in London, he tried to block Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's efforts to unilaterally partition the Canadian Constitution. Then, in 1984, Loiseleur accepted Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's invitation to enter elected politics as a Conservative candidate in that year's general election. Winning the Quebec City riding of Langheir by almost 15,000 votes, he was first appointed minister of state for finance in June 1989. Then, last September, he assumed the Treasury Board presidency.

As a Tory cabinet minister, Loiseleur has managed to attract reporters of the govern-

ment's restraint program. Last week, he said that reductions in federal spending that then-Finance Minister Michael Wilson announced in February's budget had been made even more necessary by the recession that is only now beginning to ease. He added that failure to stay on the right path would pose a "very serious danger to the economic recovery."

Like his current adversary, Public Service



Loiseleur: an ex-diplomat with a taste for confrontation

Alliance of Canada (PAC) president, David Bray, Loiseleur comes from a large family—23 children—and a modest background. The native of the small town of Yvle-Marie in the Thémiscoumque region of northeastern Quebec has acquired a reputation as an introverted contrarian who trips the hot bed and wine. But Loiseleur is far from aloof: his motto, "Deciding the occasion of his first meeting in 1961 with his wife, Lucienne, also a Yvle-Marie native, Loiseleur once told a reporter: "There's

no opera in Yvle-Marie. But there was the inauguration of a new gas station at the top of the hill."

A small town beginning clearly helped him in his political career. Although as public Loiseleur usually appears precise and sophisticated—and not detached—he surprised political observers by engaging easily with voters during his 1988 election campaign. His cannae touch, home-sweet-home, has helped to win over the PAC leadership. Among the union's executives, he is clearly needed.

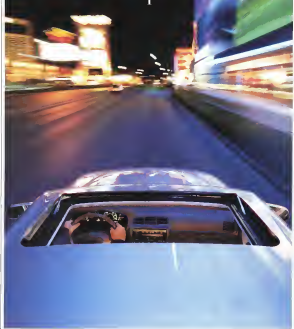
In fact, at times Loiseleur has even appeared determined to raise the level of confrontation. The February budget had set stark terms for public servants: a three-percent cap on wage increases for three years—with the warning that each one-percent increase could result in the loss of as many as 2,000 jobs due to the lack of government funds. Then, in May, Loiseleur raised the stakes. His press secretary, Denise Boachy, announced that public-service wages would be frozen for the current year because government contract bids had taken too much time and had lowered the government's negotiating flexibility. Any increase, Boachy said, would lead to more job losses than the government had originally forecast, which "would be unacceptable."

Tougher in response, Boachy charged that the government had never intended to raise salaries. "By tying any wage increase to layoffs," Boachy declared, Loiseleur "knew PAC could not trade jobs for money." With a strike looming, Loiseleur countered with the threat of back-to-work legislation in the event of a walkout. Last week, he continued to talk tough. Ottawa, he said, would take back-to-work legislation with Monday's reconvening of Parliament.

Loiseleur also said that everyone in government is expected to do their share in controlling spending. "We are asking the union to do something which is hard—but reasonable," he said. And although the wages of PAC workers total about \$4.4 billion—only three per cent of total government expenditures—Loiseleur noted that all rates, including cabinet ministers, are subject to the same restrictions. "Zero," indeed, the minister said that PAC members should consider themselves fortunate. Noting that Canada's payroll last week of 960 people from a mobile force of 20,000, Loiseleur declared that, since 1985, only 1,200 members of Canada's public service have lost their jobs. His conclusion: "That is just about the best job security available, not only in Canada but throughout the world." True or not, it was a statement likely only to inflame anger among rank-and-file workers on picket lines across the country.

PETER KOPPELMAN with  
MARCY MOORE in Sherbrooke, Que.

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Political only in Baku, Azerbaijan: hopes that looming economic collapse will compel the republics to hang together

## WORLD

# A CRY FOR HELP

In the 18th-century splendor of Moscow's Dom Boyarov, or House of Unions, foreign emissaries from 38 states met last week for a human rights conference. Amid the white marble columns where Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin lay in state in 1924, the diplomats were attending Moscow's first large international meeting since a failed August coup sparked the dramatic collapse of Soviet communism. They were also helping to shape their nations' responses to Soviet aid requests. As a result, the meetings beneath the crystal chandeliers resembled what had also echoed across a landscape strifing from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean: what would emerge from the union's wreckage, and who was in charge as the 294 million residents of

## MOSCOW MAKES FOREIGN-POLICY CONCESSIONS TO ATTRACT A MASSIVE INFUSION OF WESTERN AID

the collapsed empire entered a transition period. In Moscow, External Affairs Minister Ivanov McGonagall said that whatever aid the West provides must reach the people who need it most. "It has never been in a country," he said, "where the insouciance of official receptions contrasted so sharply with the poverty and shabbiness in the streets outside."

As post-coup euphoria gave way to a realization of harsh economic realities, the transitional Soviet government sought a swift flow of foreign aid. President Mikhail Gorbachev sent urgent letters to Western organizations. But only to the European Community requested \$7 billion worth of food for the winter. He also announced that he would withdraw all 11,000 Soviet troops and support personnel

from Fidel Castro's Cuba, a three-decade-old strait to the United States less than 100 miles from the Florida Keys. U.S. and Soviet officials also agreed to cut off arms supplies to Afghanistan and proposed a ceasefire between the Soviet-supported Kabul government and the U.S.-backed rebels. Secretary of State James Baker said that these Soviet actions, along with Moscow's recognition of the Baltic states' independence, remove "the most contentious 'old agenda' issues that have impeded and obstructed progress."

When the former Soviet Union, the partnership between Gorbachev and Russian republic President Boris Yeltsin appeared to be holding. Both agreed that some sort of central government was still required—if only to distribute short-term aid and, later, to reorganize the economy. And Moscow Mayor Gennadiy Yegorov warned that unless pro-democracy forces in the far-flung republics worked together with the Russian leadership, economic chaos and rising nationalism would threaten the August victory. "Russia cannot wait for long," said Gennadiy Yegorov, deputy chairman of the transition committee. "It is ready to start all these changes on its own."

Yeltsin's repeated free details of the transition plan, apart from enjoining a commitment to a free market, a stabilized ruble and the removal of internal barriers to trade. He had been extremely vague, he said, in an effort to attract other republics into democ-

racism—and joining—a common economic sea. But that competing idea was apparent last week. At a meeting of representatives of all 12 republics and the newly independent Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Russian delegates attacked Yeltsin for sweeping appropriations of state-owned resources. Certainly, other republics have taken over Soviet institutions in their territory. But Yeltsin has asked by far the greatest share, including the former union's central radio-telecommunications system and most of its energy resources.

But for all the disagreements, Kazakhstan representative Khasymkul Bekmambetov expressed hope that the signs of economic change would compel the republics to cling together. "Politics is politics," Bekmambetov said. "But we have to live, we have to go through the winter, we have to make plans for the next harvest." Soviet analysts have predicted a gross crop of about 100 million tons, down from last year's near-record yield of 235 million tons. As a result, the government's aid request to the European Community contains a detailed list: 5.5 million tons of grain, 800,000 tons of meat, 50,000 tons of baby food and a similar amount of tobacco for a nicotine-addicted country.

While appealing for help, the Soviets have also made conciliatory moves on contentious overseas issues. Last spring, Gorbachev could not bargain the return of the Kuril Islands, Russian territory that the Soviets want is the last days of the Second World War, without overlooking the conservatives who were then supporting him. But Yeltsin's Russians are under no such restraints. In exchange for a swift hand-off of the northern island chain, a Russian delegation in Tokyo last week requested up to \$1.7 billion in Japanese aid.

Permitting Western diplomats in Moscow, Gorbachev was a familiar symbol of continuity. And a Kremlin spokesman, McGonagall, offered recommendations on how to privatize the union's state-owned enterprises. Said McGonagall: "This is a way in which Russia could help by providing technical assistance." But Gorbachev's power to initiate change has clearly diminished. According to Russian legislator Galina Starovoytova, the Soviet president has become a figurehead, a "Queen Elizabeth" whose main function is to act as a conciliator for the leaders of the five remaining republics.

Most Soviets seem to accept that power shift. The reformist *Kommunisticheskaya Pravda* newspaper reflected the popular mood in a cartoon depicting Gorbachev and the republican leaders in birds on a high-tension wire. "Every day brings something new," the newspaper noted. "At least, this is how it was yesterday—if we haven't missed anything. And even if we did, that is not a problem, because of this is temporary." Still, the full weight of the approaching storm carries a call warning: without adequate protection, the union of August could vanish in the cold of a Russian winter.

MALCOLM GRAY in Moscow

## World Notes

### THE HOSTAGES' NEW CHANGE

As hopes for a general hostage exchange increased, Israel freed 80 Arab prisoners and turned over the bodies of nine Lebanese guerrillas in return for information about two of its senior secretaries missing in Lebanon. Then, today groups in Lebanon released photographs of two West Bank hostages, American Terry Anderson, 42, and British Jack Mann, 77. A Lebanese government minister, who asked to remain anonymous, said that if two prisoners would be freed soon.

### A BATTLE FOR BAIERS

The 53-member Philippine Senate voted 12 to 11 to reject an accord that would drive U.S. forces to sea. But, they would have for 10 more years. Although some pro-life senators were still opposing, to ensure the nonbinding decision, late last week, a hard decision could have been made. A hard decision could have been made. A hard decision could have been made. A hard decision could have been made.

### SHOWDOWN OVER AID

President George Bush threatened a veto if Congress approves \$11 billion in new guarantees to help resettlement. Soviet Jews in Israel. He said that the aid should be delayed at least 120 days until after a U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace conference, expected next month. Israeli officials dismissed Bush's threat, and American Jewish leaders moved to secure a two-thirds majority in Congress to overturn a veto.

### A FRAGILE PEACE PACT

South African President F. W. de Klerk, ANC president Nelson Mandela and Mandela's Chief Minister, Buthe, signed a peace agreement aimed at halting bloodshed. Violence that has claimed an estimated 2,000 lives in the past year. But in the week before the signing, outbreaks of violence resulted in more than 120 deaths, and Buthe's government expressed skepticism that the pact will end the fighting.

### YOUTH BLOOD

In Britain's worst urban violence in a decade, a week of rioting tore through Newcastle and other cities across economically depressed northern England. Riots were set off by attacks and hundreds of youths hurled bricks and fireworks at police, attacked houses, and forced vehicles through the streets.

## YUGOSLAVIA

## Croatia out of control

European observers came under field-gun fire

Delayed in their trademark white jumpsuits, five Danish and Dutch members of a special European Community observer team entered Dugli, a Croatian city of 150,000 in the borderless republic's war-torn eastern Slavonia region. It was Sept. 9, one week after Croatia and the federal military signed an 10-point ceasefire to work toward a Yugoslav's long-suspected civil strife. But at 5 a.m. the following morning, Serbian gov-

ernment's peace initiative seemed to be doomed. Jaa Jaa, a senior Dutch army officer with the European mission, said that "if the safety of the observers is threatened, we will definitely pull them out." And there were reports that the warring factions were gearing up for a long fight, buying weapons on the international market—the Yugoslav army is now holding a Toronto business, 25-year-old Alesio Kikic, for allegedly

armed defense force, Croatia is clearly supported by the federal army, which commands 150,000 soldiers with about 2,000 tanks and 350 warplanes. Croatia is evidently trying to subvert the initiative. According to the London-based *Financial Times*, it is shipping for arms on the world market.

Croatia's arms dealings allegedly include the former Canadian collector. Last month, two federal Yugoslav M80-31 fighter jets intercepted a Ugandan Airlines Boeing 737 carrying "Serbian" Kikic—and a cargo of automatic rifles, grenades and ammunition. They forced it to land in Croatia, where soldiers arrested Kikic, a Yugoslav native who emigrated to Canada in the late 1960s. Croatian officials fined him \$1 million. And the army transferred him to Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital, where he remained in custody last week. Kikic's Zagreb-based lawyer, Milan Vukovic, stated that the military has no right to hold him. And after meeting Kikic on Sept. 6, Vukovic maintained that soldiers had mistreated him. "They beat me so much," he quoted Kikic as saying, "that I am afraid even now to say anything."

According to Yugoslav news reports, Kikic's military investigation that he raised about \$500,000 from Croatian-Croatians and used that money to purchase arms in South Africa. Kikic's friends and business associates in Toronto maintain that they know nothing about the deal, and suggest that he may have been set up. They insist, however, that Croatia has a right to purchase arms for its defense. And if Kikic did buy the weapons, said Kieran Kers of Toronto, president of the Croatian Democratic Coalition, "he didn't do it for personal gain—he did it for his nation."

Allegations of Yugoslav arms smuggling have also surfaced in Miami. There, U.S. officials last month arrested and indicted four men who allegedly gave an undercover agent \$11,500 as down payment for \$13.8 million worth of shoulder-fired Stinger missile systems and other arms destined for Croatian forces.

Those deals, however, are dwarfed by a 35,000-ton shipment, allegedly since 50 Soviet-made T-72 tanks, carried aboard a fleet of ships from Lebanon in July. Yugoslav officials seized the arms when the fleet docked at Bar, a southern port city in the Montenegro republic with a direct rail link to Belgrade. Western observers speculated that the weapons were destined for private armies in Serbia.

Yugoslav officials say that the flow of arms likely to continue. "Real struggles," said a senior police official who imposed anonymity, "are already underway in the Balkans, much higher even than for the drugs." In Dugli and elsewhere in the war-torn Balkan federation citizens are counting the price is lives.

MARK NEMETH with  
LUCY BARNARD in Belgrade



Croatian soldiers in Dugli: a Yugoslavian and a cargo of rifles and grenades

relies continued mortar attacks from their strongholds across the Drava river, killing a 52-year-old woman and wounding two other men. Croatian soldiers were reported with Russian tanks, and as the Europeans traced past the scene, they found themselves under field-gun fire from unknown origins. "You must get these people under control," a British foreign observer shouted at a Croatian officer. But Dugli and much of Croatia were beyond any semblance of control last week, as the death toll mounted to more than 400 in the three months since the loss of inter-ethnic hatred exploded the Balkan state.

On Sept. 11, a senior European group narrowly escaped death when bullets rained through his helicopter, forcing it to make an emergency landing. And even as the foreign members of Yugoslavia and its six constituent republics convened a conference in The Hague,

smuggling in more than 29 tons of arms. In that secondary sphere, the conflict in Croatia could spread to other regions. The impoverished southern republic of Macedonia voted overwhelmingly for independence in a Sept. 8 referendum. And in Kosovo, a predominantly Albanian province within the Serbian republic, law-enforcing police used tear gas to disperse more than 25,000 demonstrators.

The violence in Croatia ignited within the republic, along with neighboring Slovenia, declared independence on June 25. Croatia's 400,000-member Serbian minority rebelled. And although the Serbian-dominated federal military claims that it has not taken sides in the fighting, European observers say that the army is openly supporting the Serbian rebels and that, together, the rebels and army have established control over almost one-third of Croatia. With an estimated 185,000-member lightly

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## THE UNITED STATES

# The eccentric Democrats

*A motley crew eyes the party's nomination*

In his 22-year political career, Lawrence Douglas Wilder has scored a number of firsts. In 1999, he was the first black elected to the Virginia legislature since Reconstruction. In 1990, he became the southern state's first black lieutenant-governor. And four years later, Wilder became the first elected black governor in the United States—although by a margin so thin that it led to a statewide recount. Still, his election was all the more extraordinary because blacks comprise less than 20 per cent of the Virginia electorate. Last Friday, the 60-year-old lawyer attempted to make history again, delivering a blistering attack on the “divisive” racial politics and “racial hatred” of President George Bush in a soothing southern drawl. Wilder announced his candidacy for the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination. “As someone who has fought for positive change and the American dream for all these years,” he declared, “I cannot stand on the sidelines while the country I love struggles further locked out.”

With that, Wilder became his party's second major contender, joining former Massachusetts senator Paul Tsongas, who has been campaigning since April. But with five months remaining before the first primary elections in Iowa and New Hampshire next February, the field of candidates—and the odds against Wilder—are expected to grow. Earlier this month, former California governor Edmund Gery Brown, 83, announced the formation of a committee to explore his

chances of winning any senate. And against the chances against Bush are slim.”

The grandson of slaves, Wilder was born in Richmond in 1931, the seventh of eight children of an insurance salesman and a maid. He later earned a degree in chemistry from Richmond's all-black Virginia Union University and won a Bronze Star for valor for rescuing wounded fellow soldiers in the Korean War. After graduating from Washington's Howard University School of Law in 1958, he returned

understanding developments for the presidential hopeful. A long-announcing feud with Virginia Senator Charles Robb broke into the open when Robb acknowledged that an anonymous source had provided him with a secret tape recording of a Wilder telephone conversation in 1984. During that call, Wilder said that Robb, married to former president Lyndon Johnson's daughter Lynda (also), was finished politically because of rumors of personal indiscretions. Former beauty queen Ta'Collette, who recently posed nude for Playboy, has alleged that she and Robb had an affair, a claim that he denies. As for Wilder's own current relationship with millionaire divorcee Patricia Kluge, a former model, the governor said that it was a “private” matter. At the same time, Wilder, a Jew, was also forced to issue a public apology after saying that black conservative Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, educated in Roman Catholic schools, might follow Vatican rulings on abortion and other issues. But some of Wilder's would-be rivals have



Wilder announcing his candidacy: 'I'm the longest of long shots'

to Richmond and married Eunice Montgomery. They had three children before their divorce in 1975.

On his first foray into state politics in 1969, Wilder beat the odds when his two state senate opponents split the white vote and won the 26-year-old nominee to the Virginia legislature, where he remained for 18 years. In 1980, he defeated his Republican opponent for lieutenant-governor with just 51 per cent of the vote. But Wilder's most dramatic victory was in the 1988 governor's race: Wilder won by just 6,741 votes. Analysts said that the most significant aspect of that victory was that he won 66 per cent of the white vote.

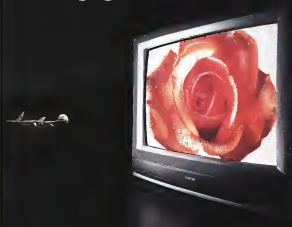
As governor, Wilder has practiced a fiscal conservatism that rivaled some Republicans, balancing the state's budgets through spending reductions. But the success brought some

of their own image problems. Catherine's Brown is still best known for endorsing New Age philosophies; Melvin's Kerry, 48, a bachelor who has had a long-running affair with Hollywood actress Dena Dineen, faces fallout from his now unfathomable opposition to the Persian Gulf War; and Clinton, 45, of Columbia, faces widespread criticism for his extramarital affairs and disingenuous children.

In choosing Friday the 13th to throw his hat into the ring, Wilder cast aside superstition. But he also acknowledged that his chances of becoming the Democrats' first black presidential candidate are slim. “I realize I'm the longest of long shots,” said Wilder, 60, the grandson of slaves who battles the odds before

ANDREW WELSH with  
WILLIAM LOWMYER in Washington

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WORLD



Thomas distancing himself from his own provocative past writings and speeches

## Abortion and the judge

Some senators doubt Thomas's claims

The hearings in the magisterial marble-and-gilt Senate chamber soon in Capitol Hill had all the hype and hoopla of an election campaign. Outside, supporters marched with placards, chanting the candidate's name, while in the congressional corridors his opponents handed out written statements criticizing his record. For weeks, a White House team had painstakingly rehearsed the routine with practice galleys in re-tailor his usage. And on the eve of the hearings, the producers of the most controversial TV network in George Bush's 1988 presidential campaign—focusing on a black convict named Willie Horton, who raped a white woman—had aired what they termed a 60-second "attack ad" against three Democratic senators most likely to emerge in his critics. But that partisan caucus atmosphere only underscored the gravity of the issues at stake as the Senate judiciary committee last week opened its hearings on Bush's nomination of black conservative Clarence Thomas as the 106th justice of the United States Supreme Court.

If Thomas is confirmed, as expected, this week, his replacement of sitting liberal Thurgood Marshall—appointed the first black justice 34 years ago—may cement the conservative leaning of the nation's highest court. Thomas's tie-breaking vote on the nine-member bench could also dominate the very civil rights legislation from which he himself benefited. In fact, some black American scholars worry openly that, in nominating Thomas, the President has chosen a strategy that may

escalinate racial tensions, especially during next year's presidential race. Bush, and Ronald Williams, professor of political science at Washington's Howard University, could exploit racial divisions "and then turn around and say 'I gave you Clarence Thomas. I'm not such a bad guy.'"

Still, last week, as Thomas distanced himself from his own provocative past writings and speeches, the chief concern among many members of Congress was just what kind of a man he is. Thomas has been a paradoxical figure in Washington ever since then-President Ronald Reagan named him to head the administration's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1982. So steady was his seven-year tenure as the commission that no member of the Congressional Black Caucus would meet with him until 1987. As Thomas said seven years ago, "I don't fit in with whites and I don't fit in with blacks."

The reasons for that isolation became increasingly clear when he related his personal history in a score occasionally breaking with tradition. Favored by his mother, his entry—when he once publicly excoriated her for dependence on welfare—and his second wife, Virginia, a white Republican activist, Thomas was persuasive as he told of his odyssey from shanty poverty to rural Pin Point, Ga. He was born to an 18-year-old maid whose husband soon abandoned her. Educated at segregated Catholic schools, he was sent to live in Savannah, Ga., with his grandfather, a store-aided small businessman who spurred white

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programs and inherent to black self-help. But Thomas conceded that despite sharing his grandfather's philosophy, he had taken advantage of some of the very affirmative-action programs that he has spent most of his career attacking, including winning a special slot for minorities at Yale Law School, one of the best in the United States. Said Thomas: "But for the efforts of so many others who have gone before me, I would not be here today."

Sell, when Democratic senators steered him away from his personal biography, they also courted less emotion and color. In a race suddenly flat and apparently colorless, Thomas insisted more than 70 attempts to convince his beliefs on the most explosive issue likely to come before the court—a abortion. Although he argued that to answer would compromise his impartiality, he eventually conceded that he did not necessarily endorse the belief that all abortions are illegal. As his opening gambit were that the committee's chairman, Senator Joseph R. Biden of Delaware, accused him of "ingratiation" and of using "the most careful dodge I have ever heard."

Biden's partisan may also have been tried by the partisan TV commercial produced by two right-wing groups. It attacked three Democratic senators as unfit to judge Thomas. The ad accused Biden of "plagiarism" for borrowing phrases from British Labour leader Neil Kinnock during his 1984 presidential bid. It questioned the involvement of California's Alan Cranston in the savings-and-loan scandal. And



Virginia Thomas and senators at Senate Judiciary's partisan circus atmosphere

against a shot of the tabloid headline "Today's way rump," (he addressed to Senator Edward Kennedy's admission of cheating on a Harvard exam and his 1989 car accident on Massachusetts' Chappaquiddick island, which killed campaign aide Mary Jo Rapchew).

Although White House officials dismissed

the ads, the commercials further engaged senators already upset by Thomas's previous characterization of Congress as "a collection of voters" capable of "haste deliberation and even less wisdom." Thomas tried to distance himself from those perceptions, including tributes to the legally ambiguous principle of natural law, a central theme of Roman Catholicism that refers to an innate relationship between God and man, superseding political codes. Thomas claimed his references to it had no constitutional relevance. But when Biden pointed out that Thomas had invoked it to praise the constitutional basis of an anti-abortion argument by conservative activist Lewis Lehrman, the senator explained that he was merely trying to win over his audience. When asked in the Lewis Lehrman Auditorium of Washington's right-wing Heritage Foundation.

In response, Senator Howard M. Rosenberg, an Ohio Democrat, said of Thomas was just telling his listeners what they wanted to hear. If so, that possibility raised one ray of hope for liberals who hoped his conservative stance was too deeply rooted to change. At week's end, as Thomas's opponents prepared to testify against her, the star who at 43 would be the youngest justice in Supreme Court history—and whose rulings could help change the complexion of the nation well into the next century—had become even more of an enigma.

NARCI McDONALD in Washington

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## PEOPLE

### JACKSON OF TWO TRADES

A slow-healing hip continues to hamper the Jackson's attempt to regain his baseball skills, but he insists that he is not giving up. Jackson, 26, a rare two-sport athlete, sustained a freak hip-gainer injury during an on-air playoff game in January, and most doctors said that it would end his professional athletic career. But after seven months of therapy, Jackson played his first game with the Chicago White Sox earlier this month. While his batting average is in the mediocre .235 range, Jackson declared: "I make progress every time I get out on the field. Being without another—that's progress."

### The write stuff

Actress Katharine Hepburn has written and co-written candidly chronicles her 40 decades in Hollywood, including a sexual relationship with reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes in the 1930s. But most of the 64-year-old actress's 120-page book, *My Sister of My Heart*, is devoted to her legendary affair with actor Spencer Tracy. They met on the set of the classic comedy *Woman of the Year* in 1942 and were lovers until his death in 1967. Their last film together was *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. In the book, the three-time Academy Award winner acknowledges that she cherished her independence so much that she did not want to marry Tracy, who was already married to his actress Louise Bradwell. With typical candor, Hepburn, who was married for six years to businessman Stephen Ludlow Bradwell in her 30s, writes: "Marriage is a strange relationship. It's very trying to be living in the same house with someone all the time if you're a grown-up person."

Hepburn, legendary affair

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### The high price of beauty and fame

Sophie Loren truly is a legend in her own time. But after a 42-year movie career, the awesomely beautiful actress says that she remains unaccustomed to the attention. "I hate this," said Loren, 56, at a news conference last week during Toronto's Festival of Festivals. "It's always like the first time—the same emotions, the same anguish." Indeed, Loren's role as a housewife in her new movie, *Saturday, Sunday and Monday*, appears to be more natural for her than her Oscar-winning star image. Said Loren, who has two children from her 24-year marriage to Italian film-maker Carlo Ponti: "My family life makes me survive."

LOREN: NOT A HOUSEWIFE IN HER LATEST ROLE

Loren just a housewife in her latest role

### STAYING OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT

Lila has been a bit quieter for Sean Penn since his marriage to Madonna ended in 1995. "Since the divorce, people have left me alone," the notorious bad boy said in Toronto last week before attending the Canadian premiere of the Indian Runner, a new thriller that he directed. During their three-year marriage, the couple gained wide publicity because of altercations with photographers. But Penn, 31, now dismisses the reports as exaggerated, "something I didn't have a lot to do with."



Penn: exaggerated reports of altercations

### A MIXED BAG OF CHARACTERS

Canadian Lily Tomlin plays 12 diverse characters in the recent adaptation of her acclaimed one-woman Broadway hit, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, for which she won the best-actress Tony award in 1966. The gallery of personalities ranges from 80th Ave, a precocious 10-year-old, to Trade, an old, philosophical bag lady. But Tomlin, 51, who has also appeared as such-women as *Pier to Pier* with Jane Fonda and *Dolly Parton*, insists that she has no particular favorite. She added, "Truly, I feel as close to one as the other."

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# RICHES TO RAGS

## HURT BY WEAK SALES AND RISING IMPORTS, CANADA'S GARMENT MAKERS NEED A STRONG FALL SEASON

**F**red Alexowitch learned some hard lessons during his brief career as a Canadian clothing magnate. In 1985, Alexowitch, a former financial advisor to Montreal businessmen Charles and Eugene Brothman, gained control of Harvey Woods Ltd., a sock and underwear manufacturer based in Woodstock, Ont. Two years later, his privately owned holding company, T.A.G. Apparel Group Inc., also took over Montreal-based Donatone Fashion Group, makers of Pezanna's underwear and work clothes. But last year, T.A.G. collapsed under a \$75-million debt load. Like most Canadian garment makers, Alexowitch says, T.A.G. was badly damaged by the recession, rising taxes and increased U.S. competition resulting from the 1989 Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. And even though the rest of the economy is now recovering, Alexowitch, 46, who has resumed his career as a financial adviser, says that Canada's clothing manufacturers' prospects are bleak. He added: "I'm certainly not advising anyone to invest in it—I predict that it will take the Canadian apparel manufacturers will disappear."

Recent trends appear to confirm Alexowitch's harsh assessment of the future. In the past two years, dozens of well-established Canadian clothing manufacturers have declared bankruptcy, voluntarily closed their doors or substantially scaled down their operations. That has driven more than 30,000 people out of work, leaving a total industry workforce of about 88,000. And there are clear signs that the shakeout is continuing. Although the recession of 1990-1992 has ended, Canadian consumers remain burdened by record high levels of personal debt. As a result, most garment makers are predicting only a modest increase in retail sales during the current fall fashion season. Squelched by relatively weak consumer



Benfield: "People are shopping again, but they're being very careful."

demand, a rising tide of imports and the trend towards cross-border shopping, an increasing number of Canadian garment manufacturers are transferring their labor-intensive operations to low-wage areas of the United States and Southeast Asia. At the same time, economic pressures are forcing many of the companies that remain in Canada to become more specialized, abandoning the low-margin, high-volume segment of the clothing market in favor of higher-quality fashion lines with greater profit potential.

The key to a sustained garment industry recovery, most analysts say, is a period of consumer spending after four years of decreasing sales. Most retailers say that they are

optimistic that a sales uptick has already begun, but they caution that the majority of shoppers appear to be taking a conservative approach to renewing their wardrobes. Says Barbara Benfield, executive vice-president of L'Apparis, a national chain of mid-price women's clothing stores, "People are shopping again, but they're being very careful. Nobody has money to throw away." L'Apparis, now, is being cautious about its finances. Last winter, the privately held company launched a cost-cutting drive that involved shrinking its nationwide network of stores to 48, from 66 a year earlier. Departing from a long-standing tradition in the women's-wear business, L'Apparis has also begun to offer consumers free major

alterations—part of an effort to attract shoppers whose appetites for new clothes has been dulled by the GST, increased retail prices and the weak Canadian economy.

Nipco Group Inc., a Montreal-based manufacturer of women's and children's clothing that also owns the Le Vieux La Rose lingerie retail chain, has experienced many of the problems that are common to the garment industry. Apparelers say that its sales for the year ending last Dec. 31 will be \$187 million, down from \$205

imports from the United States increased by 32 per cent in 1990 to \$145 million, from \$119 million in 1988.

Most Canadian garment industry spokesmen, such as Peter Nygard, the Vancouver British-born chairman of one of Canada's largest clothing manufacturers, Toronto-based Nygard International, insist that the FTA is a disastromy. Nygard, 48, was once a strong proponent of increased international trade. But he now says that the FTA's complicated rules on clothing exports have made it impossible for Canadians to compete with their U.S. rivals on an equal footing. The agreement allows both countries to retain their tariffs on fabrics from third countries, and Canada's duties are twice as high as U.S. levels. As well, Canadian garments that are made from imported textiles are often subjected to higher duties than those made with domestic fabrics. Nygard, for his part, says that Canadian firms can overcome U.S. cost advantages only by producing more stylish clothes, and to do that they must use high-quality imported fabrics. "You have to use the best raw materials or you don't stand a chance," he says.

The array of pressures on the Canadian garment industry is drastically altering the structure of Nygard's company, which he founded in 1967 after acquiring control of Winnipeg-based Jewish Productions. For most of its history, the company's primary focus has been on inexpensive, off-the-rack sportswear aimed at women over 40. It remains an important mainstay in that segment of the market, but in the past few years Nygard has also tried to enter the higher end of the business, designing \$400 coats. Because of the larger profit margins in more expensive clothes, Nygard says, he can continue to pay the additional costs that result from manufacturing in Canada.

At the same time, however, the company is shifting production of some of its lower-priced clothing lines to the United States. That as much as 50 per cent of its sales now come from outside Canada, now has 1,200 employees in Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Toronto. "Canada just can't compete with southern U.S. labor," he says, "and it's going to pay worse once we have a true free trade with Mexico."

Another company that has struggled recently is Mr. Jas Productions Inc., a money-losing Vancouver-based women's-wear manufacturer. Chairman Joseph Segal founded the compe-

## Business Notes

### RARE RISK

Continuing economic weakness and a moderating inflation rate have allowed Bank of Canada governor John Crow to lower interest rates slightly. While the annual inflation rate held steady at 5.5 per cent in August, economists said that the rate was deceptively high because of the lingering impact of the seven-per-cent Goods and Services Tax, introduced on Jan. 1. Meanwhile, Canada's last largest banks reduced their prime interest rates by 0.5 per cent, the lowest level in four years, after a drop in the Bank of Canada rate to 8.75 per cent from 9.25 per cent.

### MORE AIRLINE ACTION

Canada's two major airlines plan to lay off more workers in studies to reveal losses. Air Canada representatives said that the company plans to cut 911 jobs from its 20,500-member payroll by next January. In the same period, Canadian Airlines International Ltd. of Calgary will eliminate 1,300 of its 18,500 jobs. The two airlines have already cut their workforces by 3,700 positions over the past year.

### A PRICE OF THE ACTION

Ottawa's new government says that it is willing to pay a bid by a French-Italian consortium to buy Toronto-area aircraft maker de Havilland, a division of Boeing Co. of Seattle. Ottawa Industry Minister Ed Peley said that the province is prepared to purchase a minority stake in the company and that if it is also prepared to pay an unspecified share of a proposed \$103-million, five-year federal-provincial subsidy for the firm. Federal Industry Minister Michael Wilson opposed a previous offer by the European firm, saying it provided insufficient benefit to Canada.

### WATCHDOG WITH TEETH

Quebec's highest court has upheld the authority of a federal government agency to order the breaking of large companies into smaller units. The Quebec Court of Appeal overturned a lower-court ruling last year that Ontario's Competition Tribunal had violated the Constitution by ordering Suncoast Industries Inc., a Montreal-based producer of wood and other wood products, to sell several competing firms that it bought five years ago.

### JAPANESE BROKERS BARRED

The World Bank barred two of Japan's largest securities dealers, Nomura Securities Co. and Nikko Securities Co., from participating in the sale of autonomous steel and cement plants in India following renewed reports about the firms' past dealings with Japanese gangsters.

million in 1990. "In the past few months, there has been a surge," says senior vice-president Ben Schaffer, "but that's always the case in the fall. People haven't been buying as much, which is not surprising in view of the recession." Added Schaffer: "You can't expect a woman to buy a dress when she's not sure if she has time to go to work."

Another problem facing U.S. firms has manufacturing plants in the United States, Hong Kong and Taiwan, is the earlier closure of U.S. stores to the Canadian market as a result of the FTA. "It puts the basic problem is that the Americans feel it is more important to be a Canadian girl than a Canadian label is to an American girl," Schaffer says. Indeed, the Ottawa-based Canada Apparel Manufacturers Institute says that the value of clothing

ry in 1979 to fill his spare time after he sold the Zellers Inc. discount department store chain to the Hudson's Bay Co. But his company eventually stalled in the late 1980s by requiring several divisions that failed to perform as expected. Last winter, the company closed one store-by-store division and consolidated two of its Winnipeg operations.

Segal currently is trying to streamline his remaining facilities. For one thing, he plans to introduce a new, lower-priced women's wear line for the spring of 1993 that will be made at the company's existing Vancouver factory. Meanwhile, Segal says that some of the merchants who carry his lines have placed second orders for fall merchandise, which began appearing in stores in July. "That's an excellent sign of confidence," he adds.

Although most Canadian garment makers are still plagued by the FTA, a few say that the agreement has actually helped them to increase their exports. Among them is Montreal's Provencal Clothing Inc., which claims that its sales have risen by 40 per cent over the past year. The privately held company, which produces a broad range of men's suits, jackets and other garments, does not publish its financial results, but company officials say that all of this year's business has come from outside the United States. "The FTA opened up that huge market for us and the results have been amazing," says Joel Segal, Provencal's non-president. "You take a place like Kentucky, where there might be a guy with a chain of 10 stores. It's a small position in the United States, but he'd be a major player in Canada. We've had a lot of success selling to customers like that."

According to Provencal's Segal, the key to success in the U.S. market is having local sales representatives who already know the market and have a wide range of contacts within the industry. He added, "I think that's where some Canadian companies have made a mistake."



Mr. Joel Segal, Provencal's non-president

They've assumed they could do business in the States by flying down there occasionally. It just does not work." Segal predicts that there will be even more changes in the garment industry as the future, especially if a new free trade agreement involving Mexico is negotiated.

The whole industry is consolidating right now," he says. "There is a shakedown pro-

cess, tied to the fact that the industry is becoming more global. If you want to succeed, you can no longer sit in your own backyard."

Stef Monette, for one, takes a similar approach. In 1975, he and his brother Joseph teamed up with Alfred Sung, then a little-known designer who operated his own retail outlet in Toronto. Now, Sung is one of Canada's best-known designers. His name is featured on products ranging from watches to luggage to perfume, as well as his menswear women's clothing lines. The three partners are now trying to duplicate their success in Europe. "We're using the perfume as the calling card," says Monette. He says that when the Sung name becomes widely recognized in Europe, sales of women's wear will follow. According to Monette, Sung perfume is currently available in 250 stores throughout Italy, as well as from retailers in Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

But if Monette appears confident about his personal prospects, he offers little hope for the Canadian clothing-manufacturing industry as a whole. He notes that a growing number of Canadian retailers are stocking their stores with garments from well-known U.S. manufacturers, including Lari Chabonne and Jansen New York. That sales at border-to-border Canadian retailers to sell their goods, he says. At the same time, many Canadian garment companies are struggling because of high manufacturing costs and duties on imported textiles. In the future, Monette says, manufacturing of Sung's clothing will likely be moved offshore. He added, "We've seen for the Canadian clothing manufacturers." Some of Monette's colleagues may dispute that assessment, but few of them express any doubt that the obstacles to their success are huge.

BARBARA WICKERSON AND JOHN DALEY  
with JACQUES CAME as Montreal

## CLUB MONACO'S OPENING TO JAPAN

for years now, Club Monaco Inc. operated a single, sparsely furnished store in a trendy Tokyo-Tokyo district. But the company has been specializing in stylish, moderately priced men's and women's casual clothes, the company recently became one of the fastest-growing retail chains in Canada. The Club Monaco empire currently includes 60 stores in Canada and in the United States. Now, says the company's executives, it's set to accomplish something that no other Canadian retail company has ever done: gain a secure foothold in the huge and traditionally impenetrable Japanese market.

According to executive vice-president Bob Neysman, all of the company's senior officials were confident that the venture would succeed. "Even when we were just one store," Neysman says, "we thought this

was a market that had global potential. We started retail and thought 'hey.' With that Japanese status in operation and a fifth scheduled to open next month, Club Monaco is well on its way to fulfilling its goal.

The breakthrough occurred in November, 1989, when Club Monaco officials received a telephone call from representatives of a major Tokyo-based retail conglomerate, Aeon Co. The Japanese businessman was based in San Francisco and had seen Club Monaco's store there. Nine months later, representatives of Club Monaco and Aeon signed a licensing agreement to establish at least 10 stores in Japan by 1996. The first of those outlets opened last March in Shibuya, central Tokyo's main shopping district, where business has been brisk. "By international standards, that was a surprisingly fast start," says Neysman. The company's growth since then has also outpaced expectations. Under the agreement, three Club Monaco stores were to be in operation by next spring. Instead, Neysman says, there are likely to be seven.

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## Why breaking up will be so hard to do

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

Even before Jon Clark takes the government's proposed constitutional arrangements next week, it's obvious that Ottawa's greatest problem will not be the proposed themselves, but the enmeshing of public emotion behind them.

Canadians will very quickly have to decide what kind of country they want. Early indications are that only two choices will emerge in credible options: an improved form of federalism, or Quebec independence. For all practical purposes, the once seriously considered option of sovereignty-association is a non-starter.

By now very strong choice is for a fundamentally renegotiated Canadian confederation that would give Quebec to flourish as a distinct society, while granting to the West the powers it deserves to fulfil its equally urgent aspirations. That sounds like reason impossible—and it may be—but one thing is clear: both Quebec and Canada (or what's left of it) will suffer from splitting up by not staying together.

In fact, breaking Canada up into two or more parts may be impossible without triggering such a severe drop in our standard of living that we would eventually be reduced to Third World status, a Zaire with polar bears.

The best case for removing rather than destroying Canadian federalism has been made by Thomas Courchesne, an incisive and articulate academic, currently director of the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. A native of Yellowknife, N.W.T., Courchesne has taught economics at the University of Western Ontario in London and was visiting professor at l'École nationale d'administration publique at Quebec City. He is politically involved in his thinking, advocating worldwide solutions instead of theoretical choices (He was unsuccessful for the federal Conservative in a London riding in the 1979 election, but has stayed away from any party involvement since).

A tough and independent advocate of pragmatic approaches that flow from the first discussion

*Dividing the country into two or more parts would overnight reduce Canada to Third World status: a Zaire with polar bears*

of economics rather than the waxy uncertainties of constitutional law, Courchesne has almost overnight become the individual leader of the movement to bring the Quebec problem down to earth. "We cannot make our way to the millennium if all our challenges are approached via formal constitutional amendments," he believes. "We must fall back on our tradition of resorting to all means of creative entrepreneurship—in joint ventures, opting out arrangements, ordinary legislation and bilateral agreements."

He points out that the wide swings in the pendulum of power towards and away from Ottawa since the 1860s have all happened under the same basic constitutional structure. That's due in part to the fact that our Constitution was silent before 1867 on powers of international transfers, so that the division of powers can be effectively altered without any constitutional upheaval.

In an admirably classified paper published by the C. D. Howe Institute, Courchesne documents an infeasible case against both Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa's hopes for an arrangement that would involve some modified form of sovereignty-association with Canada and Parti-Québécois Leader Jacques Parizeau's

dreams of independence. For Quebec to go its own way in either direction would hurt Canada—but it would devastate Quebec. Our only hope, and Quebec's, is to improve the arrangements we've got.

Instead of attacking either Quebec separatism or those Canadians who live the Province Mosaic line and are prepared to let Quebec go, Courchesne sticks to an international bottom-line view. "Canada is now in play," he writes. "Shunned and abandoned by rejection of the Meech Lake accord, Quebecers have attached themselves, economically and politically, to the sovereignty option." He adds "What's emerging in the rest of Canada is a 'let things go' or 'bon voyage' mentality that is reflected in the dramatic rise in the popularity of the Reform party."

His first point of attack is on the Parizeau thesis that after separation, Quebec would simply assume its share (though the proportion remains in dispute) of the national debt and continue to use the Canadian currency. But, Courchesne writes, "The strains and stresses would be enormous. The result would be less power for Quebec; it would become the user of another country's currency with no voice in its management and subject to damaging interest and exchange rate swings."

Probably Courchesne's strongest argument against separation has to do with the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, which would have to be totally renegotiated. That would mean Quebec's key financial institutions, such as trust companies and insurance firms, now protected by their provincial status, would be liable to U.S. takeover because under free trade, no special exemptions are permissible. As well, under the Free Trade Agreement, Hydro Quebec and the Caisse de dépôt et placement would be seriously challenged by Washington over their policies of industrial incentives and subsidies.

At the same time, Canada would have to renegotiate the Auto Pact, because it could no longer claim the Quebec car market, and it is not all clear that Quebec would be granted an Auto Pact of its own. "Quebec still looks to the rest of Canada for fully one-quarter of its overall manufacturing shipments, and to Ontario for a major portion of this," according to Courchesne. "Hence, for obvious, understandable reasons, trade talks with the rest of Canada and the United States would be an absolute priority under any independence scenario. For Ontario, the U.S. market is absolutely key. Its shipments to Quebec rank a distant third, so that if Quebec separates it would be far more vulnerable (like Ontario)."

Courchesne lays out many other equally compelling reasons why leaving this country apart makes no economic sense, and I hope his was couched well for the negotiations to come. "If we Canadians," he concludes, "are realistic, our country is confident ways that preserve and enhance what we value and at the same time accommodate the long-standing concerns of the various regions, then an evening Canada is likely to flourish. As an Ojibwa might have said, 'We have met our friends and they are us.'"

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# A prisoner's new hope

David Milgaard is seeking another chance

For David Milgaard, the recognition of Parliament this week offers new hope of freedom after 22 years in prison. Sentenced to life imprisonment for the fatal stabbing of a 20-year-old Saskatoon woman, Milgaard has always insisted that he is innocent of the crime. Last year, his lawyers asked Ottawa to order a new trial. But on February, Justice Minister Ken Campbell rejected the request, saying that she saw no reason for a retrial. Then, last month, Milgaard's lawyers, armed with new evidence and public calls for a new hearing, again asked Campbell for a retrial. Even Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has promised to look into the case. Spoken for by both opposition parties and last week that they would use the release of Commons sitings to press Campbell to reverse her position and order a new trial. The hearing of the Milgaard case, said IBC member Rodney Laporte, "casts a shadow on the entire political system."



Milgaard: new evidence and public calls for another hearing

The case took a surprising turn on Sept. 6, when Milgaard's mother, Joyce, had a five-minute conversation with Mulroney outside a Winnipeg hotel where the Prime Minister was booked to lecture. Mulroney told her that "you've been very courageous and we will do what we can."

Joyce Milgaard told Maclean's that by speaking to her, Mulroney had helped to "re-establish the credibility of the case, because he is the Prime Minister, and to say that he will look into it." In Ottawa, some political observers speculated that Mulroney's words might have reflected knowledge that Campbell planned to order a new trial. But if the Prime Minister was just speaking off the cuff, as Adnan Doo, a legislative assistant to Mulroney, said, it was a

political crisis. Mulroney, "that would certainly put added pressure on Campbell. If he says yes to a new trial now, it might look like he backed down."

## Campbell's pressure



Members of the Winnipeg-based Milgaard Support Group, which is led by Milgaard's mother, now contend that during Michael Gail Miller may have been seen by Larry Fisher, who is currently serving a total of 32 years in British Columbia for violent sexual attacks on young women in Winnipeg and Saskatoon during the same period in which Miller was killed. Milgaard's supporters also claim that the Saskatoon police counsel witnesses to provide evidence against Milgaard. They add that since then, the police

have tried to cover up their actions. Earlier this month, Saskatoon's acting police chief, Murray Montague, acknowledged that some documents dealing with Fisher were missing. But he added: "We have no reason to suspect that any files have been destroyed or otherwise tampered with." Still, while the police subsequently located some of the files, last week the Saskatoon Police Board asked the Saskatchewan Police Commission to investigate the handling of the documents.

Milgaard's supporters say that Milgaard, who is one of Canada's longest-serving prisoners, has been in a severely depressed state since Campbell rejected his appeal. According to his lawyer, David Asper, the 39-year-old Milgaard is being given the drug lithium to control his depression and speaks most of his case in order to avoid mixing with other prisoners. "His health is deteriorating," says Barbara Deaton, a Winnipeg social worker who is a member of the Milgaard Support Group. "It is urgent that something be done."

The new case in support of Milgaard, who is serving his sentence at St. John's Mountain Penitentiary, 25 km north of Winnipeg, has largely been built by Genesee Ministries Inc., a nonprofit American organization that specializes in attempting to free convicted people who it says are innocent. In 1980, the Princeton, N.J.-based group, which has convinced the courts of the innocence of eight American prisoners who were either serving life sentences or facing execution, took on the case at Joyce Milgaard's request, and not changing her for its services. A report drawn up by Genesee outlines a series of nine steps, including that of Gail Miller, that it attributes to Fisher.

For his part, Fisher, 43, who was living in Saskatoon at the time of the murder, has maintained his innocence in the case. According to the Genesee report, which was sent to Campbell, Fisher's ex-wife, Linda, who now lives in Canada, Sask., says that she told Saskatoon police in 1980 that she believed her former husband killed Miller.

The report also quotes Linda Fisher as saying that her ex-husband was at home even though he told police that he was at work on the morning of Jan. 31, 1968, when Miller was stabbed about two blocks from the Fisher apartment.

The accumulated weight of new evidence and new arguments in support of Milgaard's claims of innocence has convinced some legal observers that a new trial is warranted. Says Brian Gossage, president of the Toronto-based Criminal Lawyers Association of Canada: "There are certainly a lot of questions to be answered." Clearly, he says, David Milgaard, whose answers cannot come now, needs enough.

JOHN DOWSE is in Winnipeg

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# Blank comedy

The Coens have fun with writer's block

BARTON PINK  
Directed by Joel Coen

Good ideas often start out as targets. Drive to distraction by a blank page, a writer drops the job at hand and starts writing about something else altogether—about the dilemma of being unable to write. That is how the film-making brothers Joel and Ethan Coen wound up writing their new movie comedy, *Barton Fink*, which Joel directed. While trying to write their oddly styled gangster movie, *Miller's Crossing* (1990), the Coens were stricken with writer's block. They turned their obstacle into an asset—by concocting *Barton Fink*, a movie about a blocked Hollywood screenwriter in the 1940s. The Coens went on to complete *Miller's Crossing*, which seduced the critics but failed to score at either the Oscars or the box office. Last spring, however, *Barton Fink* became the first movie in the 44-year history of the Cannes Film Festival to sweep the prizes for best picture, director and actor (John Turturro).

The movie—a writer's current gone wild—is not as monumental as that triumph might suggest. But it is an excellent gem at Hollywood's expense, a black comedy with an incendiary sense of humor.

Fink (Turturro) is a Broadway playwright who is in an ancient mansion. As he starts trying to communicate a message with the winking clerk, he talks nervously about creating "a new living theatre"—if, about and for the common man? Plunked with his latest Broadway success, against his better judgment he accepts an offer from a Hollywood studio to become a contract writer. His first assignment is to write a screening movie.

Dismissing the temptations of Hollywood luxury, Fink moves into a seedy concubine hotel where guests are invited to stay for "a day at a lifetime." His room rattles with strange sounds, and battered dice oases out from under the peeling wallpaper. He sits and stares at the blank page in his typewriter. Slowly, writer's block sets in.

Fink takes refuge in formless fragments of life, friendship with his neighbor in the room next door. A gorgeous saleslady named Charlie (Jodie Foster), he is a leader-than-life example of the common man. Fink has ideas— "I could tell you a few stories," says

Charlie with apparent understatement. But Fink is too wrapped up in his own distorted imagination to recognize good material even when it is slopping him on the back. Fink has a wrestling move to write, and he is stuck.

Because mounts at Hollywood waits for the script, Finkers character actor Michael Lerner is deliciously vile as Jack Lipnick, the uncouth studio head who hired Fink to create a vehicle for screen legend Wallace Terry.



Turturro (left), Lerner: idealism, wrestling and a joke at Hollywood's expense

Wrestling pictures, Lipnick explains, "are big money about big men—in tight." Fink does not know the first thing about wrestling moves. But Jack is confident that his best young writer will deliver a wrestling scene with "that Barton Fink feeling."

In a panic, Fink seeks advice from an alcohol-soaked screenwriter named W. P. Maloney (John Mahoney)—a literary legend from the South who appears to be modeled on William Faulkner. And he is a teacher in Maloney's university. Andrey, sublimely portrayed by Judy Davis, who also serves as the actor's muse and mistress. As Fink's deadline approaches, the subplot suddenly coagulated. And the movie takes a violent, unpredictable turn towards a nightmarish conclusion—which may, or may not, be a hallucination sparked by spontaneous combustion as Fink's overhyped brain

Concocting vivid images for the vertigo of writer's block, Joel Coen's director is wonderfully exaggerated. His camera seems to move with a mind of its own. It stays up to the gritty ceiling of Fink's hotel room, then zooms down to the blank page in his typewriter, dissolving into hand-written cursive. Cam into the less cinematic motifs and cruises behind the walls in one outrageous shot, the camera cuts away from a levitating scene and moves seamlessly from the bed to the bathroom sink—finally disappearing down the bathroom drain.

A brilliant performance by Turturro, meanwhile, prevents *Barton Fink* from being merely a cleverly sampled excuse for stylish filmmaking. With an outlandish high-top hairstyle, his Fink is a walking caricature. But Turturro plays it straight, working against the movie's surreal grain, he remains utterly convincing as the most unlikely screenwriter. And that makes him even funnier. For his part, Coen performs a provocative variation on his usual image as an affable lag.

*Barton Fink* is not for all tastes. It is an inside joke, a self-conscious reversion of the creative process. There is a garrison (keep its walls from which its art escapes) scattered—much Fink, with his out-of-control ideas, our Charlie, with his dainty affectations. But the movie offers a privileged glimpse into the chaos that lies between a writer's creativity and the cultural demands of the movie industry. In their films—which range from *Rainy Season* (1984), a personally plotted murder tale, to *Notting Arlene* (1987), a very comedy about help-wiping—the Coens have retained compassion. And with *Barton Fink*, a movie that unfolds like a violent accident of the imagination, they have tested a writer's luck with a filmmaker's breakdown.

DEAN D. JOHNSON

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## THEATRE

# Triumph in Edmonton

*Lloyd Webber's latest work reaches Canada*



Mitchell (left), James: Robin Phillips successfully revamps *Aspects of Love*

**I**n producers say that it is the most popular show ever mounted on an Edmonton stage. Nearly every day, they receive about 1,600 orders for tickets to Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love*, which started a seven-week run at the Citadel Theatre on Sept. 4. By last week, the box office had already reached break-even point on the \$3.2-million production, after selling about three-quarters of the 49,000 seats available. To have secured the rights to *Aspects* is the first pillar was a major triumph for the Citadel and its director general, Robin Phillips. And Lloyd Webber, who attended the opening-night performance at the Citadel's 605-seat Shucro Theatre, applauded the Edmonton version, which returns to Toronto for a limited run beginning on Dec. 3. Attending a gala reception following the performance, the composer told Webber's "It is an exciting pleasure to see a production." Added the diminutive multimillionaire: "England, creator of such musical extravaganzas as *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, "It is so exciting."

For the 63-year-old Lloyd Webber, one of

the century's dominant theatrical composers with at least 13 productions of his musicals currently playing around the world, it was a chance to breathe new life into one of his less successful works. Certainly, Phillips, 49, who became the Citadel's director general last year after a high-profile career that included six years as artistic director of southern Ontario's Stratford Festival, has managed to revitalize *Aspects* by giving it a unique story line. The musical first opened in London in 1988, where it is still running, but the New York City production closed in 1991 after a 10-month run. It took the stage hydraulics and blockbuster status of Lloyd Webber's other hits. But Phillips's talented international cast, composed of the leads in *Cats*, which includes veteran Australian-born Shubert; former actor Keith Mitchell, endows the production with passion. Based on a 1985 novel by Derek Cernitt, who was in the periphery of Britain's famed Bloomsbury Group, the musical focuses on the extramarital affairs among five people over three generations. As it opens, the focus is on 17-

year-old London theatre boy Alex (American Ben Bolmer), who takes Rose (American Linda Ralston), an impoverished, older Puritan actress, to the retreat of his wealthy uncle George (Mitchell) in the south of France. George is away from the stifling seaside villa, and the lovers help themselves to his bed and his beauty. "I feel 17 again," says Rose. "So do I," replies Alex, moments before George returns—to find his wife, and ultimately marry, Rose. Over the years, the rebellious George, whose solution to life's problems is a glass of champagne, has other romantic interests—including Robin sculptress Gail (American Kelli James). Meanwhile, Rose becomes a leading actress and plants other aspects of love in a brief liaison with Gail's son and nostalgic flag with Alex. Eventually, George dies on hard times financially and anxious himself at paternal love for his daughter, Jenny, played by Toronto actresses Miranda de Pencier as the younger child and Lynn Allen as the teenager. And, in a further coincidence, when Jenny grows up she becomes married to her cousin Alex.

Phillips's control of the rebuilt musical is evident: the story is more head than it was in the New York version. And the director's use of just one set, which transforms itself appropriately from Puritan hall to 1930s villa through a series of subtle lighting changes, serves to highlight the musical itself. "I used the set to open up Andrew's own colossal score," Phillips said in an interview. "It is one of his best—romantic, deep and varied and beautifully accurate about the past and passions of love."

The production afforded Phillips an opportunity to link the successful Citadel with the high-stakes world of international theatre. "There is a terrific opportunity for a Canadian circuit for this type of show," he said. "We must come up with new ways to present theatre, especially now that government funding is not the greatest." As a graduate of the Citadel's partnership with the Toronto-based Love Entertainment Group of Canada, which produced *Phantom of the Opera*, and with Lloyd Webber's London-based Really Useful Theatre Co. Ltd., which also staged the New York version, "This production comes out of Western Canada," and Love Entertainment chairman Greg Desbrow, who negotiated with Webber's company to secure the Canadian rights. "There is a vital implication here for all commercial theatres that private and nonprofit sectors can face successfully on projects."

The link adds for *Aspects* a welcome development for Phillips, whose first full season of the theatre also includes the Shakespearean favorite *Romeo and Juliet* and the premiere of Calgary playwright John Murrell's *Democracy*, about the American Civil War. But Lloyd Webber says that every successful theatre will also find good production by Lloyd Webber. And the composer himself, who praised the Citadel as a "wonderful theatre space," said that he is anxious to stage another show there. Viewed Lloyd Webber: "We'll do it again."

JOHN BOWNE



*Devine's characters carry on posthumous battles and make love fully clothed*

## BOOKS

# The living dead

*A master's ghost story spans generations*

MURDER & WALKING SPIRITS  
By Robert Davies  
(McGraw-Hill & Stewart, 357 pages, \$27.95)

**R**obert Davies has always been fascinated by ancestors, that was the company of the out-of-the-dead who live on in photographs and old letters—sad in the dreams and personalities of the living. In most of his novels, from *Ruthless* and *The Masters to What's Aired in the Bone*, he has explored the ways in which the past haunts the present. This theme is partly what makes him such a deeply conservative writer—conservative in the best sense. He knows that the changes that oblige the modern world are often illusory, and that the sense of freedom that comes with speed is a lie. In his subtle but shrewd new novel, *Murder & Walking Spirits*, he makes clear that none of the voices that clamor at the edge of consciousness, many of the problems that dog the living, are the legacy of the ghosts he and we and women have laid into the earth.

*Murder & Walking Spirits* inherits Davies's erudition on the past to a comic extent, beginning with the novel's marvelous first

sentence: "I was never so amazed in my life as when the Stuller drew his concealed weapon from its case and struck me to the ground, none dead." The speaker is Connor Gid Gilman, entertainment editor of a Toronto daily. "The Stuller" is Ronald Alard Goring, a film and drama critic for the same paper. When Gid surprises his own wife and the Stuller in bed together, the Stuller jumps up and kills him. Now a ghost, Gid follows his murderer into a few decades that Goring is covering. But he does not see the same scenes that Goring does. Instead, he witnesses a hallucinatory series of films portraying the lives of his own ancestors.

Meanwhile, Gid carries on a very funny posthumous battle with Goring. Unseen to his new ghostly powers, Gid wonders how he can harm his killer. He does not want to be the traditional "crude specter" discovered squalling by the friends who gaze upon him. Besides, he reflects, Goring has no impulse, and "I shall certainly not make a fool of myself squalling by his thermostat."

Such spiritual humor is happily confined to the Goring plot line. The actual film tape of Gid's forebears—which takes up most of the book—is more somber, but eminently readable. Indeed,

Davies is a born storyteller who could probably spin a good yarn out of any of his own tales. And his language, while never particularly original, pours out of him like a fountain from a Welsh peacock: it is easy to be carried comfortably forward on its endless tide.

Such fluency is necessary since *Murder & Walking Spirits* covers a good 200 years. Golly, the book says almost nothing about Gid's mother and her ancestors: a rather major omission at what purports to explain a man's past. The ancestors who count in the narrative are Gid's father, Bradward, and the two family lairs, Welsh and United Empire Loyalist, from which he is descended. The Loyalist saga begins with Anna Gape, the widow of a British soldier in the American Revolution. Escaping by canoe to Canada, she becomes the matriarch of a long line of farmers. The other side of the family, the Welsh Gilmanians, are staunch Methodist and cloth trade men. After a family bankruptcy, Gid's grandfather, Benji, emigrates to Canada, where he eventually becomes a newspaper magnate.

With so much ground to cover—so many failures, romances, brave deeds and family secrets—it is hardly surprising that *Murder & Walking Spirits* seems more like a collection of story fragments than a fully realized novel. Yet many of the stories unlock the mind. One of the best concerns Thomas Gilman, a Methodist preacher in the remote hills of Wales. Trapped by a band of bandit-soldier brigands, he continues down that road caring is not a matter of using dirty words, but of condemning the golden to damnation. Davies convincingly illustrates such tales with his wide knowledge of social history. He can build an entire anecdote on long-forgotten customs—such as people's habit, in pre-revolutionary England, of making love with their clothes on.

Yet, despite its loving, apparently wit and sensitive drive, something essential is missing from Davies's novel. Gid's experience of his ancestors gives him a sense of a history of life more poignant and more powerful than anything I ever knew when I was a young man." Reading *Murder & Walking Spirits*, however, does not reproduce that feeling. Gid—and Davies—seems to float above the novel's events with a coolly detached detachment. What they observe is always interesting, but only rarely moving. A strange, usable barrier separates *Murder & Walking Spirits* from the spirit of life. So much of it is energetically and graciously told, yet its characters are ghostly, brilliantized caricatures: the best of those past generations has disappeared.

JOHN REMROCK



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# Lives of a saint

Anne Tyler's writing is verbal alchemy

SANCT MAYBE

By Anne Tyler  
(Frogan, 332 pages, \$27.95)

As Anne Tyler writes as though she has been listening through lipholes all of her life. In such earlier acclaimed novels as *The Accidental Tourist* and *Dreading Emma*, she explored with gentle but unerring accuracy not only the texture of events that make up people's lives, but also the gleaming ability of some human beings as they respond to those events. Tyler's alchemy is wonderfully at work in her latest novel, *Saint Maybe* in both a return to a familiar Tyler theme—how people's lives sweep from them—and an exploration of new emotional territory, a meditation on the act of atonement.

*Saint Maybe* chronicles the Bookers of Wintry Street in Baltimore, a minimally well-adjusted couple with three children—only one is still at home—and a dem life. That every part of their lives was absolutely wonderful. But the family suddenly starts to unravel. The initial reason for the domestic upheaval is their oldest son Duane's lousy marriage to a woman who is almost a stranger—Duane, who wears "extremely red lipstick that no one but gals, for some reason, but boys," and who comes equipped with two peculiar children from a previous first marriage. Shortly—no, shortly—after the lousy wedding, she has a third child, extremely a Reddie, whose origins are in question.

The grownups, weary bedfellows almost always, with a little more to say than their novel, its absurdly stark jarring events, except for the actions of life, their youngest son, who is not quite a believer in all the domestic lullaby. Practically willing to be discarded, he becomes a careless remark to his older brother that precipitates not just two family tragedies, but two lifetimes, last of all, with its surreal high-school scenario—how can he get his girlfriend into bed—and finally but predictably, his life, disappears forever.

Tyler has created a wonderful character in the tormented Jim, who turns out to be the unlikely saint of the title. Gentle, but moose and unassuming, he also fearfully self-conscious concerning his reflection in a window, he waffles. If there was any event, say at all, so tragic that it could put him out of the scene

problems in his family than he does about his own life, or lack of it.

Tyler specializes in adult children who cannot leave home and families whose members are so enmeshed that they do not even know it. In that and other ways, *Saint Maybe* is similar to her previous novels. Even the manner in which Jim is ultimately rescued from his life of atonement is reminiscent of *The Accidental Tourist*, a story about a travel writer's romance with a big soldier whose official personality changes his life. In a similar fashion, San Francisco's Rita, the Clubhouse Counselor, another sexual woman who lives herself out to go into people's houses and brutally ask through the details of their lives, sorting it into three piles—keep, discard or query.

But it seems charitable to complain about others of previous work when the writing offers such grace as Jim being pursued by girls "carrying their losses intentionally far in front of them like fruit on a tray." Tyler's grace is so smooth and seamless that time slips by too quickly, and there is not the chance to sense each situation and character that she creates with so much affective and humor. It is, in fact, a novel with major spiritual dimensions—not atonement and redemption here—but, in the end, it seems lighter than its subject. The cumulative effect of reading it is not unlike the experience that has been when she regards the youngest of the three children he has raised, and realizes that what she engenders most in him is "laughter and no ache."

JUDITH SIMSON

## Maclean's

### BEST-SELLER LIST

#### FICTION

- 1 *Midwinter Ties*, Atwood (2)
- 2 *Heartbeats & Melting Spins*, Scott (1)
- 3 *Goodnight, Beasts* (1)
- 4 *The Town of All Fools*, Clancy (2)
- 5 *Saint Maybe*, Tyler (3)
- 6 *Runkin*, Barthelme (1)
- 7 *The Redhead God's Wife*, Tan (4)
- 8 *The Destroyer*, Smith (1)
- 9 *Imagines*, Giller (1)
- 10 *The Diversity Conspiracy*, Skelton (2)

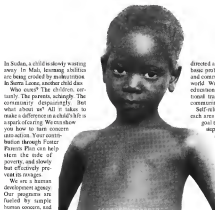
#### NONFICTION

- 1 *The Storm of My Life*, Hargrave
- 2 *Paul Felt*, Humphrey (1)
- 3 *Toujours Presence*, Meek (1)
- 4 *Up/Ch*, Feltman (1)
- 5 *Waiting for the Weekend*, Rykoffsky (1)
- 6 *Joe John*, My (1)
- 7 *The Battle of Blenheim*, Paine (4)
- 8 *Outcasts*, Dandridge (1)
- 9 *When You Look at My Photograph*, Photo: It's Time to Go Home, Dandridge (1)
- 10 *Life in the Belly*, Kim

(1) Positions held last week

Compiled by Brian Belliveau

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